The Hongkong Telegraph.

N°. 2824. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1891. SIX DOLLARS PER QUARTER

Banks.

THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, LIMITED.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL£2,000,000.
PAID-UP CAPITAL£ 580,000.

LONDON:
Head Office.....40, Threadneedle Street.
West End Office.....25, Cockspur Street.

BRANCHES IN INDIA, CHINA, JAPAN AND THE COLONIES.

THE BANK receives MONEY ON DEPOSIT; Buys and Sells BILLS OF EXCHANGE, ISSUES LETTERS OF CREDIT, forwards BILLS for COLLECTION, and Transacts Banking and Agency Business generally, on terms to be had on application.

INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS:
Fixed for 12 months, 5 per Cent. per Annum.
" 6 " 4 " "
" 3 " 3 " "
ON CURRENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS 2 per Cent. per Annum on the Daily Balance.

E. W. RUTTER, Manager. [110

Insurances.

THREE IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT THE STANDARD LIFE OFFICE.

1.—HALF A MILLION STERLING *per annum* is being paid in Death claims year by year.
2.—THE FUNDS IN HAND amount to upwards of Seven Million pounds Sterling and have increased 50 per cent. in the last 15 years.
3.—THE LIVES who die are annually replaced by *more than double* the number of new carefully selected lives.

ADAMSON, BELL & Co., Agents, Hongkong.
982—3]

THE TOKYO MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED, OF TOKYO.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL.....$1,200,000.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents are prepared to accept first class HULL RISKS at CURRENT RATES.

GEO. R. STEVENS & Co.
Hongkong, 1st April, 1891. [517

GENERAL LIFE AND FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY IN LONDON.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE and LIFE at Current Rates.

REUTER, BROCKELMANN & Co.,
Hongkong, 1st July, 1889. [66

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES.

RUSSELL & Co., Agents.
Hongkong, 14th November, 1890. [1567

NOTICE.

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED.....$1,000,000.

The above Company is prepared to accept MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on GOODS, &c. Policies granted to all Parts of the world payable at any of its Agencies.

WOO LIN YUEN, Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE,
No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST.
Hongkong, 1st February, 1882. [216

GENERAL NOTICE.

THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY, (LIMITED.)

CAPITAL, TAELS 600,000, EQUAL TO $833,333-33
RESERVE FUND $318,000.00

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
LEE SING, Esq. | LO YEUK MOON, Esq.
LOU TSO SHUN, Esq.

MANAGER.—HO AMEL.

MARINE RISKS on GOODS, &c., taken at CURRENT RATES to all parts of the world.

HEAD OFFICE, 8 & 9, PRAYA WEST.
Hongkong, 17th December, 1881. [1250

Masonic.

ST. JOHN LODGE OF HONGKONG, No. 618, S.C.

AN EMERGENCY MEETING of the above LODGE will be held in the FREEMASONS' HALL, Zetland Street, on FRIDAY next, the 24th instant, at 5 for 5.30 p.m. precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited.

Hongkong, 21st April, 1891. [611

VICTOIRA CHAPTER, No. 525.

AN EMERGENCY CONVOCATION of the above Chapter, will be held in the FREEMASONS' HALL, Zetland Street, on FRIDAY, the 24th instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited.

Hongkong, 16th April, 1891. [593

VICTORIA CHAPTER, No. 525.

A REGULAR CONVOCATION of the above Chapter, will be held in the FREEMASONS' HALL, Zetland Street, on TUESDAY next, the 28th inst., at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely.

Hongkong, 16th April, 1891. [599

Intimations.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.

CHEMISTS BY APPOINTMENT.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

(Established A.D. 1841).

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS, ANALYTICAL, FAMILY, DISPENSING, and GENERAL CHEMISTS.

PERFUMERS.

PATENT MEDICINE PROPRIETORS.

SEEDSMEN.

WINE and SPIRIT MERCHANTS, CIGAR IMPORTERS, &c., &c.

Manufacturers of AERATED WATERS By Steam Machinery.

This being THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY of our Firm, and THE JUBILEE YEAR of the Colony, "THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY having been Established A.D. 1841," we take the opportunity to thanking our friends for their support during the last 50 years, and tender them the assurance of our best services in the future as in the past.

We shall continue to import DRUGS, CHEMICALS, and GOODS of every kind of the BEST QUALITY ONLY as heretofore, at prices that will be found to compare favourably with local rates, and in many instances with those ruling at home.

BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS.

A. S. WATSON & Co., LIMITED.

THE SHANGHAI PHARMACY, SHANGHAI, 24, Nankin Road.

BOTICA INGLEZA, MANILA, Escolta, 14.

THE CANTON DISPENSARY, CANTON, Canal Road.

THE DISPENSARY, FOOCHOW.

THE DISPENSARY, HANKOW.

THE DISPENSARY, TIENTSIN.

LONDON OFFICE, 106, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY, 21st January, 1891. [188

THE BALMORAL GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

ISSUE OF 4,500 PREFERENCE SHARES AT $10 EACH, FULLY-PAID UP.

THE Directors of the above named Company have been empowered by Special Resolution of the Shareholders of this Company to ISSUE 4,500 SHARES, or such proportion thereof as they may deem necessary.

These Shares carry a right to a cumulative preferential dividend of 12 per cent.

In the event of the Company being wound up the holders of these Shares will be entitled to have the assets of the Company (after paying debts) applied in the first place to repayment to them of the amount paid for these Shares.

The Directors are able to state on information received from Sydney that the total amount of the Company's indebtedness is only $15,000.

The Balmoral property has been very favorably reported on by independent experts at Sydney, and the results of Crushings have been satisfactory, although the best stone has not yet been reached.

Advices have been lately received from the Mine informing the Directors that there are more than 8,000 tons of tailings left by former workers ready to hand, and allowing for cost of treatment, cartage, freight, &c., the ore should realize £20.0 per ton nett. These tailings form an additional and valuable asset.

The public are invited to subscribe for these Shares, and in the event of present Shareholders failing to apply, the balance of Shares unapplied for will be allotted *pro rata* to the public.

Application forms are to be obtained from and to be sent in to the Company's Bankers, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in Hongkong, Shanghai, and Coast Ports on or before the 24th instant, accompanied by payment of $10 per Share for each Share applied for.

The Directors will probably issue not more than 2,500 of these preference Shares at par.

By Order of the Board,
K. A. STEVENS, Secretary.
Hongkong 16th April, 1891. [591

CANTON DISTRICT.

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS, No. 39.

WHAMPOA BARRIER (LI-TE-CHA) PILES CARRIED AWAY.

NOTICE is hereby given that a number of piles on both sides of the passage through this Barrier having been carried away, Masters of Vessels are cautioned not to approach too near either of the lights, but steer a *mid course* through the opening.

J. H. MAY, Harbour Master.

Approved
F. E. WOODRUFF, Commissioner.
Custom House,
Canton, 16th April, 1891. [597

Intimations.

ESTD. 1864.

BURGUNDIES.

BEAUJOLAIS.
MACON.
BEAUNE.
POMMARD.
VOLNAY.
CLOS DE VOUGEOT.
CHAMBERTIN.
SPARKLING RED BURGUNDY.
CHABLIS.

CALDBECK, MACGREGOR & Co., WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

Hongkong—13, Queen's Road. [16

W. POWELL & CO.

HAVE just received a new stock of ART MUSLINS, CRETONNES, LACE CURTAINS, &c., &c.

In newest designs and fast colors.

W. POWELL & CO.

Hongkong, 21st April, 1891. [6

PIANOS FOR SALE. A. HAHN. PIANOS ON HIRE.

20 °/₀ DISCOUNT ON ALL

FANCY GOODS, LEATHER GOODS, LADIES' DRESSES, " JERSEYS, " STOCKINGS, &c., &c.

LADIES' UMBRELLAS, GENTLEMEN'S HATS, " HOSES, CHILDREN'S DRESSES, " BOOTS. &c.

No. 2, PEDDER'S STREET.

Hongkong, 11th April, 1891. [18

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

FOR SALE.

WATERPROOF GARMENTS, RAIN COATS, CHAIR APRONS, LEGGINGS.

—UMBRELLAS—

DOUBLE-SOLED WALKING BOOTS.

WATERPROOF DRESSING for BOOTS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

Hongkong, 18th April, 1891. [39

CRUICKSHANK & CO., LD.,

FAMILY AND DISPENSING CHEMISTS, AND Commission Agents.

KOLA—CHOCOLATE.

SPECIALLY suitable for delicate persons, invalids, dyspeptics, brain workers, travellers, sportsmen, athletes, and in all other instances where a nourishing and sustaining food is a necessity.

SPECIALLY RECOMMENDED BY *M. K. HARGREAVES, M.D.,*

GRANT'S SCOTCH OAT FLOUR.

A Special preparation from Finest Scotch Oats for Infants and Invalids.

SOLD IN TINS, 50 CENTS EACH.

Hongkong, 7th April, 1891. [17

KELLY & WALSH, LD.

AYRE'S CHAMPIONSHIP TENNIS BALLS of 1891 manufacture.	Plain and Gilt Edge Squeezees.
Salter's Black Gut Tennis Bats.	Dougherty's Indicator Cards.
Slazenger's "The Demon" and "Special Demon Bat."	Cheap Playing Cards for Clubs.
Lawn Tennis Presses.	Foster's Self Teaching Whist Cards, by means of which any one may acquire not only a knowledge of the game, but a proficient Scientific player.
Tape Measures for making out Courts.	Poker Chips and Counters.
A fine selection of Dog Collars.	Whist Markers.
New Menu Tablets.	

SWEET CAPORAL CIGARETTES.

KELLY & WALSH, LIMITED, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 14th April, 1891. [7

ROBERT LANG & CO.,

TAILORS, HATTERS, SHIRTMAKERS, AND GENTLEMEN'S OUTFITTERS.
OPPOSITE HONGKONG HOTEL.

OUR Stock of Seasonable Goods is now complete in all the newest MATERIALS, comprising a large variety of DRESS SUITING from $30 upwards. TWEEDS for SUITS, ULSTERS and INVERNESS CAPES, CORDS and ELASTICS for RIDING and SHOOTING BREECHES and LEGGINGS.

EVENING DRESS SHIRTS, COLLARS, TIES, GLOVES, SILK, LISLE THREAD and CASHMERE, SOCKS, PATENT LEATHER PUMPS and SHOES, &c., &c., &c.

ROBERT LANG & Co.

Hongkong, 9th January, 1891. [136

W. BREWER

HAS JUST RECEIVED

OLIVER Wendell Holmes' Works, complete 6 vols.	Wilson's 3 Century in Photography.
Year Book of Medical Treatment, 1891.	Stanley on Surveying Instruments.
Booth's In Darkest England, cheap ed.	Renan's Life of Christ, and other works by same author.
Cyclopædia of Classical Quotations 9 vols., $3.75	New Pianos by Broadwood, Collard and Collard, Kirkman, &c. on easy terms.
Ventilation by Buchan.	New Stock of Brown Russia Shoes, excellent quality and very reasonable.
Rosser's How to find the Stars.	
Encyclopædia of Whist.	
Cavendish, Pole, Walker, and Clay on Whist.	

W. BREWER, UNDER HONGKONG HOTEL.

Hongkong, 14th April, 1891. [139

Shipping.

STEAMERS.

UNION LINE.

FOR KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

THE Steamship "KHIO," Captain A. Tyson, will be despatched for the above Ports TO-MORROW, the 23rd inst., at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to RUSSELL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 20th April, 1891. [603

DOUGLAS STEAM-SHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY & TAMSUI.

THE Company's Steamship "HAILOONG," Captain Roach, will be despatched for the above Ports TO-MORROW, the 23rd instant, at Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co., General Managers.

Hongkong, 21st April, 1891. [607

"MOGUL" LINE OF STEAMERS.

FOR SHANGHAI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

THE Steamship "PATHAN," Captain Roy, will be despatched as above on or about the 25th inst.

For Freight or Passage, apply to ADAMSON, BELL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 18th April, 1891. [599

NAVIGAZIONE GENERALE ITALIANA (FLORIO AND RUBATTINO UNITED COMPANIES).

STEAM FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND BOMBAY, having connexion with Company's Mail Steamers, to ADEN, SUEZ, PORT SAID, MESSINA, NAPLES (LEGHORN), and GENOA; all MEDITERRANEAN, ADRIATIC, LEVANTINE, and SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS, up to CALLAO. Taking Cargo at through rates to PERSIAN GULF and BAGDAD.

THE Company's Steamship "BORMIDA," C. Gavazzo, Master, will be despatched as above on TUESDAY, the 5th May, at NOON.

At Bombay the Steamers are discharging in Victoria Dock.

For further particulars regarding Freight and Passage, apply to CARLOWITZ & Co.

Hongkong, 20ht April, 1891. [602

SAILING VESSELS.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

THE 3/3 L. I. I. American Bark "ST. JAMES," Burnham, Master, will load here for the above Port, and will have quick despatch.

For Freight, apply to RUSSELL & Co.

Hongkong, 21st April, 1891. [610

Mails.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG, 1891.

Parthia	Tuesday...	May 5th.
Empress of Japan	Tuesday...	June 2nd.
Empress of India..	Tuesday...	June 30th.

THE Steamship "PARTHIA," Captain J. Panton, R.N.R., sailing at Noon, on TUESDAY, the 5th May, with Her Majesty's Mails, will proceed to VANCOUVER, *via* SHANGHAI and YOKOHAMA.

RATES OF PASSAGE. FROM HONGKONG, FIRST CLASS.

To Vancouver, Victoria, Esquimault, New Westminster, Port Townsend, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, O.....	$225.00
To Banff, Calgarry	$225.00
To Winnipeg.....	$275.00
To Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth	$285.00
To Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis, Milwaukee.....	$295.00
To Detroit, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Hamilton, London, (Ont.), Toronto, Niagara Falls	$305.00
To Kingston, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec, New York, Albany, Troy, Rochester, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Washington, Boston, Portland (Maine), Halifax, St. John.	$310.00
To Liverpool and London	$325.00
To Paris and Bremen	$345.00
To Havre and Hamburg	$335.00

Through Passage Tickets granted to England, France, and Germany by all trans-Atlantic lines of steamers.

Special rates (first-class only) are granted to Missionaries, members of the Naval, Military, Diplomatic, and Civil Services, to European officials in service of China and Japan, and to Government officials.

Return Tickets.—First and second class only.—Prepaid return tickets to Pacific Coast Points, and to Eastern and Interior Points of Canada and U.S.A. will be granted, available for:—
12 months at 25 per cent. off Return Fare.
4 " " 50 per cent. " "
(Time is reckoned from the date of issue to date of re-embarkation at Vancouver.)

Passengers to Pacific Coast Points and to Interior and Eastern Points of Canada and U.S.A. not holding prepaid return tickets, but who re-embark at Vancouver within 12 months from date of issue of original ticket, will be allowed 10 per cent. off the return fare.

Prepaid return tickets to Liverpool and London will be issued available for 12 months at $650 or for 4 months $575.

CARGO.—Through Bills of Lading issued to Japan, Pacific Coast Points, and to Canadian and United States Points.

Consular Invoices of Goods for United States Points should be in quadruplicate; and one copy must be sent forward by the steamer to the care of D. E. BROWN, Assistant General Freight and Passenger Agent, Canadian Pacific Railway Company, Vancouver, B. C.

Parcels must be sent to our Office with address marked in full by 5 P.M. on the day previous to sailing.

For further information as to Passage or Freight, apply to

ADAMSON, BELL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 8th April, 1891. [14

Mails.

U. S. MAIL LINE.

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

THROUGH TO NEW YORK, VIA OVERLAND RAILWAYS, AND TOUCHING AT YOKOHAMA, AND SAN FRANCISCO.

THE U. S. Mail Steamship "CITY OF PEKING" will be despatched for SAN FRANCISCO, *vid* YOKOHAMA and HONOLULU on SATURDAY, the 25th inst., at 1 P.M., taking Passengers and Freight for Japan, the United States, and Europe.

Through Bills of Lading issued for transportation to Yokohama and other Japan Ports, to San Francisco, to Atlantic and Inland Cities of the United States, *viâ* Overland Railways, to Havana, Trinidad, and Demerara, and to ports in Mexico, Central and South America, by the Company's and connecting Steamers.

Through Passage Tickets granted to England, France, and Germany by all trans-Atlantic lines of Steamers.

First-class Fares granted as follows:—
To San Francisco.....$225.00
To San Francisco and return, available for 6 months..... } 393.75
To Liverpool..... 325.00
To London..... 332.00

To other European Points at proportionate rates. Special reduced rates granted to Officers of the Army, Navy, Civil Service, and the Imperial Chinese Customs, to be obtained on application.

Passengers by this line have the option of proceeding Overland by the Southern Pacific and Connecting Lines, Central Pacific, Northern Pacific or Canadian Pacific Railways.

Passengers, who have paid full fare, re-embarking at San Francisco for China or Japan (*or vice versa*) within one year will be allowed a discount of 10 per cent. from Return Fare. *This allowance does not apply to through fares from China and Japan to Europe.*

Freight will be received on board until 4 P.M. the day previous to sailing. Parcel Packages will be received at the Office until 5 P.M. same day; all Parcel Packages should be marked to address in full; value of same is required.

Consular Invoices to accompany Cargo destined to Points beyond San Francisco, in the United States, should be sent to the Company's Office in Sealed Envelopes, addressed to the Collector of Customs at San Francisco.

For further information as to Passage and Freight, apply to the Agency of the Company, No. 50A, Queen's Road Central.

J. S. VAN BUREN, Acting Agent.

Hongkong, 2nd April, 1891 [1

OCCIDENTAL AND ORIENTAL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

TAKING CARGO AND PASSENGERS TO JAPAN, THE UNITED STATES, MEXICO, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, AND EUROPE; VIA THE OVERLAND RAILWAYS, AND ATLANTIC AND OTHER CONNECTING STEAMERS.

THE Steamship "OCEANIC" will be despatched for San Francisco, *vid* Yokohama, on THURSDAY, the 7th May, at 1 P.M.

Connection will be made at Yokohama with Steamers from Shanghai and Japan Ports.

All PARCEL PACKAGES should be marked to address in full; and same will be received at the Company's Office until FIVE P.M. the day previous to sailing.

First-class Fares granted as follows:—
To San Francisco.....$225.00
To San Francisco and return, available for 6 months..... } 393.75
To Liverpool..... 325.00
To London..... 332.00

To other European Points at proportionate rates. Special reduced rates granted to Officers of the Army, Navy, Civil Service, and the Imperial Chinese Customs, to be obtained on application.

Passengers by this line have the option of proceeding Overland by the Southern Pacific and Connecting Lines, Central Pacific, Northern Pacific or Canadian Pacific Railways.

Passengers, who have paid full fare, re-embarking at San Francisco for China or Japan (*or vice versa*) within one year will be allowed a discount of 10 per cent. *This allowance does not apply to through fares from China and Japan to Europe.*

Consular Invoices to accompany Cargo destined to Points beyond San Francisco, in the United States, should be sent to the Company's Offices, addressed to the Collector of Customs, San Francisco.

For further information as to Passage or Freight, apply to the Agency of the Company, No. 50A, Queen's Road Central.

J. S. VAN BUREN, Acting Agent.

Hongkong, 15th April, 1891. [8

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

NOTICE.

STEAM FOR SINGAPORE, COLOMBO, ADEN, SUEZ, PORT SAID, BRINDISI, GENOA, ANTWERP, BREMEN & HAMBURG, PORTS IN THE LEVANTE, BLACK SEA AND BALTIC PORTS; ALSO, LONDON, NEW YORK, BOSTON, BALTIMORE, NEW ORLEANS, GALVESTON, AND SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS.

THE COMPANY'S STEAMERS WILL CALL AT SOUTHAMPTON TO LAND PASSENGERS AND LUGGAGE.

N.B.—Cargo can be taken on through Bills of Lading for the principal places in RUSSIA.

ON SUNDAY, the 10th day of May, 1891, at 11 A.M., the Company's Steamship "PREUSSEN," Captain Reimkasten, with MAILS, PASSENGERS, SPECIE & CARGO, will leave this Port as above, Calling at GENOA.

Shipping Orders will be granted till Noon. Cargo will be received on Board until 4 p.m. Specie and Parcels until 3 p.m., on the 9th May, (Parcels are not to be sent on Board; they must be left at the Agency's Office). Contents and Value of Packages are required.

The Steamer has splendid Accommodation and carries a Doctor and Stewardess.

For further Particulars, apply to MELCHERS & Co., Agents,

Hongkong, 21th April, 1891. [4

Intimations.

DAKIN BROS. OF CHINA, LIMITED,

DISPENSING CHEMISTS, &c.

CHEMISTS AND AERATED WATER MANUFACTURERS.

DAKIN'S SELTZER WATER,

CONTAINS THE TRUE SELTZER SALTS.

Makes a more palatable drink with spirits than Soda Water.

NO LOWERING TENDENCY.

IN LARGEST SIZE BOTTLES, CENTS 50 PER DOZEN.

(Telephone No. 60.)

Nos. 22 & 24, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.
Hongkong, 13th April, 1891. [37

BY APPOINTMENT.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.

(ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.)
HONGKONG.

WE invite attention to the following old lauded Brands, all of which are of excellent quality and good value for the money.

The same being specially selected by our London House, and bought direct from the most noted Shippers, are imported in wood and bottled by ourselves, thus enabling us to supply the best growths at moderate prices.

☞ In ordering it is only necessary to state the name and quantity of Wine or Spirit wanted, and initial letter for quality desired.

Orders through Local Post or by Telegram receive prompt attention.

PORTS. *(For Invalids and general use.)*

		Per dozen Case.	Per Bot.
A	Alto Douro, good quality, Green Capsule	$10	$1.00
B	Vintage, Superior quality, Red Capsule	12	1.10
C	Fine Old Vintage, superior quality, Black Seal Capsule	14	1.25
D	Very Fine Old Vintage, extra superior, Violet Capsule *(Old Bottled)*	18	1.50

SHERRIES.

A	Delicate Pale Dry, dinner wine, Green Capsule	6	0.60
B	Superior Pale Dry, dinner wine, Green Seal Capsule	7.50	0.75
C	Manzanilla, Pale Natural Sherry, White Capsule	10	1.00
CC	Superior Old Dry, Pale Natural Sherry, Red Seal Capsule	10	1.00
D	Very Superior Old Pale Dry, choice old wine, White Seal Capsule		
E	Extra Superior Old Pale Dry, very finest quality, Black Seal Capsule *(Old Bottled)*	14	1.50

	Per Case. 1 doz. Quarts.	Per Case. 2 doz. Pints.

CLARETS.

A	Superior Breakfast Claret, Red Capsule	$4	$4.50
B	St. Estephe, Red Capsule	4.50	5.00
C	St. Julien	7	7.50
D	La Rose	11	12.00

	Per doz. Case.	Per Bot.

BRANDY.

A	Hennessey's Old Pale, Red Capsule	$12	$1.10
B	Superior Very Old Cognac, Red Capsule	14	1.25
C	Very Old Liqueur Cognac, Red Capsule	18	1.50
D	Hennessey's Finest Very Old Liqueur Cognac, 1872 Vintage, Red Capsule	24	2.00

SCOTCH WHISKY.

A	Thorne's Blend, White Capsule	8	0.75
B	Watson's Glenorchy Mellow Blend, Blue Capsule with Name and Trade Mark	8	0.75
C	Watson's Abelour-Glenlivet, Red Capsule, with Name and Trade Mark	8	0.75
D	Watson's H K D Blend of the Finest Scotch Malt Whiskies, Violet Capsule	10	1.00
E	Watson's Very Old Liqueur Scotch Whisky, Gold Capsule	12	1.10

IRISH WHISKY.

A	John Jameson's Old, Green Capsule	8	0.75
B	John Jameson's Fine Old, Green Capsule	10	1.00
C	John Jameson's Very Fine Old, Green Capsule	12	1.10
	GENUINE BOURBON WHISKY, fine old, Red Capsule, with Name.	10	1.00

GIN.

A	Fine Old Tom, White Capsule	4.50	0.40
B	Fine Unsweetened, White Capsule	4.50	0.40
C	Fine A. V. H. Geneva	5.25	0.50

RUM.

	Finest Old Jamaica, Violet Capsule	12 1.00
	Good Leeward Island	$1.50 per Gallon.

LIQUEURS.

Benedictine	Maraschino
Curaçoa	Herring's Cherry Cordial
Chartreuse	Dr. Siegert's Angostura Bitters, &c.

5]

BIRTH.

On the 22nd April, at 21, Elgin Road, the wife of T. DE FARIA-NEVES, of a son.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1891.

THE GAMBLING ABORTION.

THE *bête noir* in this most original of legislative efforts was discovered in section 3 of the proposed ordinance. The section reads:—"A place shall be deemed to be opened, kept or used as a common gaming house, or for the purpose of a lottery, when gambling is one of the main and principal objects for which the said place is opened, kept or used, although such place is also used as an ordinary social club, and the public at large have not access thereto." This was too much even for the Official Phalanx of the Hongkong Legislative Council to swallow without making wry faces, and from Governor DES VŒUX downwards—and it is a long way down from his Excellency to that lay figure the Colonial Treasurer—they prevaricated and wanted time, thought gambling was a wicked thing and angel's visits were few and far between, and opined they would quickly settle the difficulty if they only knew how. But they didn't know how, and hence the trouble. We don't know who drafted the original ordinance, and there is no desire on our part to print a single offensive word regarding that *chef-d'œuvre* of legal short-sightedness. But we must really break a lance in defence of public rights, no matter whether Mr. ACKROYD or Mr. GOODMAN is responsible for the thing so realistically described in the heading of this article.

The ostensible object of the *Gambling Ordinance* was to remove a doubt as to what actually constituted a common gaming house in this colony. A large number of so-called Chinese clubs had sprung up in the town to which all and sundry could resort and indulge in games of chance, and in certain cases, when the offenders were haled up before he magistrate, they were acquitted, owing to the alleged ambiguity of the language of the section under which they were charged. All that was required to regulate gambling in Hongkong and keep it within reasonable limits, was to distinctly lay down, without any room for doubt, the difference between a properly constituted club and a common gaming house. A simple matter apparently, but it nevertheless resulted in the evolution of a very much involved and, as a whole, decidedly idiotic ordinance which threatened the rights and independence of every social institution in Hongkong. And the Unofficial Members very naturally kicked against it, and Governor DES VŒUX practically upheld their objections.

We have already quoted the objectionable section of the ordinance as originally drafted, and we cannot really see that the proposed amendment is any improvement It reads—"A place which is used as an ordinary social club to which the public at large have not access, shall nevertheless be deemed a *common gaming house* if kept or used either for the playing of any of the games mentioned in A, or for the purpose mentioned in B in section 2." Now, before going farther, we must explain, as far as we can, what the misty references to "A" and "B" mean. The genius who drafted this legislative masterpiece wants to define what a lottery is, forgetting that the *Lottery Acts* require neither explanation nor definition. And he says that "a lottery includes any game, method or device whereby money or money's worth is distributed or allotted in any manner depending upon or to be determined by chance or lot (or the result of any race or contest), whether the same be held, drawn, exercised or managed within or without the colony." And there is a lot more ignorant rot intended to mean the same thing. Horse-racing, a perfectly legitimate and legal pastime, as every hedge lawyer ought to know right well, stakes in connection with racing are just as valid as the transactions of ordinary mercantile life; but our Hongkong legal SOLON, whoever he may be—not that that matters very much, as he is most probably a fitting representative of the mixed crowd of knaves and fools who have flooded this colony to its detriment for years—has made the subscribers to an ordinary racing sweepstakes, a universally recognised legal contract, common criminals in the eye of the law and subject to the pains and penalties provided for by this ordinance. Supposing ten owners of race-ponies subscribed $20 a-piece for a cup or sweepstakes to be run for at Happy Valley, they would place themselves under the ban of this ridiculous definition of a lottery and could be fined or sent to prison. Was this necessary to prevent the existence of low Chinese gaming houses under the name of clubs? Will offensive interference with the comparatively innocent and certainly harmless sports and pastimes of Europeans tend in any shape or form to reduce the particular vice against which this law is specially aimed? If not, what is the good of it, as at present framed?

The legal gentleman who framed this model of Hongkong modern jurisprudence, must either have been imitating RIP VAN WINKLE or attending the Sunday school classes of the Salvation Army. He defines a common gaming house as "any place opened, kept or used for playing therein at (*sic*) any game of chance, or any mixed game of chance and skill, (1) in which a bank is kept by one or more of the players exclusively of the other or others, or (2) in which the chances of the game are not alike favorable to all the players, including among *(sic)* the players the banker or other person by whom the game is managed, or against whom the players stake, play or bet—or (3) in which any commission, or percentage is charged in connection with the game, the stakes or the winnings—or (4) in which excessive stakes are ordinarily played for." Any place which is held for the purpose of a lottery or lotteries comes under the ordinance. If there is anything new, or original, or sensible in the foregoing, we shall be glad if the Attorney General or any of our readers will point it out. The existing *Lottery Acts*, unless Sir GEORGE PHILLIPPO was all at sea, and we don't think he was, fully provide for race-lotteries, pari-mutuel, totalisator, and everything connected with horse-racing—*vide* his lordship's judgment in the very interesting case of *Fraser-Smith v. Moore* in 1884—, and we cannot see the slightest necessity or any reasonable grounds for this threatened interference with the long established social privileges of the foreign residents of Hongkong. Horse-racing, race lotteries, the totalisator and pari-mutuel, a dollar limit at poker or a fifty cent point at whist, are to be made criminal offences—why? have these wicked indulgences shocked public morality, outraged "olo custom," interfered in any way with vested interests or the rights of the community? Oh! dear no! but the low Chinese gaming dens must be shut up, and our official legal luminaries cannot see the difference between a low hell, open to all and sundry for purposes of gaming and for nothing else in Lascar Row, and the Hongkong Club in Queen's Road and the City Club in Ice House Street. If Governor DES VŒUX cannot see his way to absolutely withdraw this most Quixotic of intended reforms, the representatives of the public in the local legislature should practically protest by declining to vote and leaving the Council-room *en masse*.

The man who makes a common gaming house of every respectable club in the colony, where games of chance are common—whist, poker, euchre, billiards, bowls, etc.,—*in which excessive stakes are ordinarily played for*, is only fit to be tarred and feathered and left in that condition. What are excessive stakes? Twenty dollars or twenty cents? Who shall decide? A Hongkong police magistrate! Not scarcely! that feeble bubble has burst. Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX is leaving here shortly for good; before he leaves, we strongly recommend him to appoint a Mixed Commission of sensible and practical men to investigate the gambling evil in Hongkong and to report on the requirements of the colony in that direction. To pass the present Ordinance in its present shape would be the height of folly.

TELEGRAMS.

THREATENED STRIKE IN AMERICA.

LONDON, April 11th.

At Pittsburgh seventy thousand miners intend to strike on the 1st May in favour of the eight hours movement, and a bitter struggle is expected.

THE LABOUR COMMISSION.

The labour commission which has been appointed in England includes the leaders of the labour unions.

THE OPIUM QUESTION.

April 12th.

The House of Commons, by a majority of thirty—the numbers being 160 against 130 votes—have adopted Mr. Pease's motion for the stoppage of licenses to grow the poppy and of the sale of opium in India except for medical purposes.

THE NEW ORLEANS LYNCHING.

April 13th.

The Italian Ambassador has left Washington and sailed for Europe, declaring that he was only going on furlough and was still Minister.

THE CHILIAN REVOLT.

The Chilian insurgents have captured Arica.

MUTINOUS ARTILLERY MEN.

April 20th.

A battery of artillery at Portsmouth refused to parade on the grounds of excessive drills.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

A WHITE pitch has been discovered that can be run into deck seams hot, and will stand the sun's heat in any climate.

A REGULAR meeting of Zetland Lodge, No. 525, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, on Friday, the 1st proximo, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

A LATE tram will run to the Peak to-morrow night after the concert at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, in aid of the widow and children of the late Bombardier Ashdown, R.A., leaving the St. John's Place Station at 11.45. A special tram will leave the Peak Station at 8.45.

THE Band of the A. & S. Highlanders will play the following programme at the Barrack Square, this evening, commencing at 7.30 o'clock:—

March	"Invid and Free"	Scholes.
Lancers	"Duke of Fife"	Wood.
Valse	"The Grenadiers"	Waldteufel.
Polka	"See me dance"	Solomon.
Quadrille	"Hollyrood Palace"	Phillippe.
Galop	"Up and Off"	Faust.

WONG FAT CHEONG, the compradore to M. Victor Roque, of Haiphong, who is suspected of having betrayed that gentleman and M. Henri Roque to a band of pirates about a year ago, has been arrested by the authorities at Canton, according to the *Courrier d'Haiphong*. The chief grounds for suspicion are that the chief of the bandits said the man had been killed, whilst as a matter of fact he was making his way to his family.

TEACHER:—Why does Great Britain support royalty? Pupil:—Because royalty cannot support itself. He went to the top of the class.

CALAMITIES that swell the death-rate of a nation—epidemics, for instance—invariably bring about an increase in the number of marriages; poverty and want, however, constitute exceptions to this general rule.

"BURONG," a Hongkong correspondent, writes to a Singapore contemporary:
—Twist the letters of the words—
"A Straits' Military Exaction"
and you get the following anagram:—
"My Star! Its A Liar Tax, I Notice."

THE Admiralty have issued instructions for the composite sloop *Wanderer* to be paid out of commission at Sheerness on her arrival from the China station, where she has been relieved by the *Archer*, transferred from the West Coast of Africa.

A CHINAMAN was arrested at Yau-ma-ti last night on suspicion of having been connected with the piracy at Chai Wan on the 12th inst. As the master of the pirated boat and two of his crew failed to identify him as being one of the band, he was discharged this morning.

THE Band of the 1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders will play the following programme at the Officers' Mess to-morrow, commencing at 7.45 p.m.:—

March	"Le Père la Victoire"	Ganne.
Valse	"Au Revoir"	Waldteufel.
Selection	"La Mascotte"	Audran.
Serenade	"Quand tu Chantes"	Gounod.
Selection	"The Grand Duchess"	Offenbach.

WATANABE ISAO, the escaped convict, who, under the assumed name of Tsujimura Kurata, studied law, obtained a situation in the Judicial Department, and eventually rose to the rank of Judge, before he was detected, was sentenced in the Nagasaki Saibansho, the other day, to six years' minor imprisonment, for illegally changing his name; and his father, Watanabe Heitei, was at the same time sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment and six months' police surveillance, for being implicated in the matter.

AT the Magistracy this morning three Chinamen were charged by Inspector Butlin with being the masters of a public gambling house in Heung Lane yesterday. The Inspector said he raided the house in consequence of information supplied by the landlord, who had frequently ordered the tenants to desist from gambling. Mr. Dennys, who appeared for the defendants, said he would prove that the house was not a gambling place, but a sailors' boarding house. The case was adjourned until to-morrow, the defendants being allowed bail in the sum of $100 each.

BY the classification of States made by the Census Bureau, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Kansas form the "Northern Central Division," while Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and California form the "Western Division," the others being the North Atlantic, South Atlantic and Southern Central. This recognizes no "Eastern" States, but it is not improper to apply that term to all of those east of the Missouri river, for the centre of the United States from east to west between New York and San Francisco is west of the Missouri.

MR. E. W. MAITLAND, Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial Hospital, begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the hospital:—

Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.	$100
Messrs. E. N. Mehta & Co.	25
Messrs. Tata & Co.	25
Dorabjee Nowrojee, Esq.	25
Messrs. H. M. M. Ally & Co.	15
Messrs. N. Mody & Co.	15
Messrs. E. Pabaney & Co.	10
Messrs. H. Rahmitoolabhoy & Co.	10
W. J. Saunders, Esq.	10
J. Pestonjee, Esq.	10
Rev. W. V. Rainier, R.N.	10

ON the 13th ult., in the House of Commons, Mr. Norris asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he could give any information as to the position of affairs between the Sultan of Brunei and Rajah Brooke; and if the Sultan had addressed any further protest to the Government?—Sir J. Fergusson: Her Majesty's Government are awaiting a full report from Her Majesty's Consul at Brunei, who proceeded to his post at the end of last year. Representations have been received from the Sultan, and he has been informed in reply that full inquiry will be made on the arrival of the Consul, and that it is hoped that an arrangement satisfactory to his Highness will be effected.

THEY are considering the advantages of imprisonment for contempt of Court in Pennsylvania, and the general opinion is that the old law has a good many drawbacks. An alleged clergyman over there seduced a lady under promise of marriage, and when the Court awarded £6,000 damages he rose and stated briefly that the judge and jury, and the U. S. Constitution, and the Declaration of Independence, and the spirit of the Immortal Washington might all go and frizzle in Tophet before he would pay a cent. Then the Court got up in a towering fury, and sent him to gaol indefinitely. He proved a model prisoner, and used to preach to the other inhabitants of the gaol with such fervour that they almost all became converted, and there was so little for the warders to do that they grew careless, for a gaol with 200 broken-hearted penitents in it needed practically no supervision at all. And so things went on for a while till one day the parson and most of the contrite Christians surprised the warders with spades and crowbars, and crippled them, and then bolted. The majority were recaptured, but the reverend gentleman has never been seen since.

IN the House of Commons on the 13th ult. Sir T. Esmonde asked the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies if he would state what were the relations between the Colonial Office and the Crown Agents for the Colonies; whether the control exercised by the Colonial Office over the Colonial Agents comprehended any division of the profits of the agencies; if so, to what amount and under what head was it credited to the Imperial revenue; what were the annual profits of these agencies and what was the annual amount, of their business; and whether he was aware that the West Indian colonies, including British Honduras and British Guiana, had recently passed resolutions through their Legislatures condemning the agency system as an expensive and wasteful medium for the transaction of their business; and, if so, upon what grounds had these resolutions been overridden by the Colonial Office.—Baron H. De Worms: The hon. baronet will find full information on the Parliamentary Paper C. 3,075 of 1881, and there has been no change since then in the relations of the Colonial Office with the Crown Agents, who are appointed on fixed salaries. These officers derive no personal profit from the transactions of their office beyond their remuneration as fixed by the Secretary of State. No charge is incurred by Imperial revenues in connection with the Crown Agents' office, and no receipts accrue to those revenues. The Secretary of State is satisfied that economy and efficiency are secured in a notable degree by the employment of the Crown Agents.

THE Queen held an Investiture at Windsor Castle on the 18th ult. and conferred the honour of K.C.M.G. upon Major-General J. Bevan Edwards, late Commander of the Forces here, and Mr. "P. and O." Sutherland

TWO Chinese were sent to gaol for a month each by Mr. Wise this morning, being convicted as being the masters of a public gambling house in Cross Street, Wanchai. The defendants were arrested by Inspector Bremner and a party of police yesterday afternoon.

BY beating it out between pieces of membrane gold may be formed into leaves of such thinness that 282,000 of them will only make a pile one inch in height. A single ounce of gold may thus be spread over a hundred square feet. That's the sort they have at Punjom, isn't it?

WE urgently entreat his Excellency the Governor to withhold his sanction to the cruel floggings awarded to the convicted *lukong* Fan-ki by Mr. Acting Justice Ackroyd in the Supreme Court on Monday. The sentence is a disgrace to British justice, and we shall not hesitate to deal with the matter from that point of view.

IT is remarkable how curiously superstitions are liable to spring up occasionally, even amongst people generally credited with the gift of keen observation like the Japanese. Until lately the Hokkaido (Yesso) fishermen, almost worshipped the whale, because the advent of this monster marine mammal on their coasts always ushered in the herring season. However, their minds were disabused when, a few weeks ago, a whale was washed ashore, and, on being cut up, it was discovered that his whaleship had managed to get "outside" no less than about 16 *koku* of herrings, equal to about 40 piculs.

TO yachtsmen who may have been sailing past the arsenal the other day, says our Shanghai contemporary, the sight of a locomotive flying along the river side on the railway leading from the gun factory to the proof mound, and the sound of its shrill whistle, must have awakened many pleasant reminiscences as well as hopeful anticipations. That a real and serviceable locomotive has been built in Shanghai by Chinese workmen under foreign superintendence, and that its preliminary trial proved most satisfactory, are facts which—to say the least of them—are highly encouraging. The ruthless tearing up of the Shanghai-Woosung Railway by orders of the Imperial Government, and the removal of the whole plant out of the way to Formosa, are grievances that are still fresh in the memory of many a Shanghai resident. It is gratifying to find that there are now progressive native officials in our midst, who so far from being afraid of the "iron road" and the "iron horse" or the disastrous consequences to the "Fung-shui," have actually laid down a short railway and constructed a powerful locomotive to run upon it. It would be a graceful act on the part of the Taotai to invite the residents of Shanghai to a formal trial trip on the banks of the Whangpoo, and thus publicly inaugurate this sweeping innovation upon the past conservatism of this locality. We understand that Mr. T. Bunt, M.I.M.E., is the designer of the engine, which is to be used for drawing heavy guns and other weighty appliances within the Arsenal and to and from the trial range Details as to its construction may be given later on. It is, of course, a mere question of time as to the covering of this district, as well as the whole of China, with a network of railways.

IN the sitting of the French Chamber of Deputies on the 19th ult., M. Montfort questioned the Government as to the situation in Tonquin, and strongly censured the substitution of a civil for a military administration in that colony. They had gone to Tonquin, and must now remain there; but they were threatened with a great misfortune—the necessity of again despatching a large force to the Far East. Three years ago the colony was quiet, now the very reverse was the case. This change in the situation was to be attributed to the removal of so many troops from Tonquin. The step had been taken with a view to conciliating public opinion. M. de Montfort went on to say that at Cho-Bo the Militia deserted to the enemy. The colony was in a state of anarchy, and the Government was to blame for having kept the truth from the country. He wanted to know what steps the Ministry intended to take. M. Etienne, Under Secretary of State, admitted that acts of piracy had been increasing in Tonquin, but declared that the battalion of soldiers sent from Cochin-China had sufficed to restore a normal state of things. At present the situation was not in any way worse, but was, on the contrary, improving. The Government, while appealing as little as possible to the devotion of the troops, would continue its work of pacifying the country by obtaining the submission of the chiefs of the pirate bands. This announcement evoked jeers from the Reactionaries, who interrupted the speaker repeatedly, and their dissatisfaction increased when M. Etienne declared that the Cabinet had no idea of modifying the position of the civil Governor-General who was at the head of the colony. This did not imply that the Governor-General directed the military operations; but, as a matter of fact, no expedition was undertaken without his consent. No cheers arose from the Republican benches when M. Etienne resumed his seat.

WE commend the following to the Hon. N. G. Mitchell-Innes:—A performance in feats of memory was given at Madras the other day by Professor Vedanta Desika Charlar, under the distinguished patronage of H. E. the Governor. The Professor in a few words explained that the performance he was about to give was known technically as *Satha Avythanum*, which meant the remembering of 100 things at the same time. Though he was quite prepared to give such an exhibition of memory, such a performance must necessarily be tedious to the audience, and he would therefore confine himself to 21 feats, and explained how those who were to be judges were to examine him. In these various tests. The following were the mental operations he was subjected to, at one and the same time:—1. Playing chess with two persons simultaneously on two separate boards; without seeing the boards; 2. Multiplying long rows of figures; 3. Finding the square and cube roots of any given number; three or four such numbers being given at one and the same time; 4. Distinguishing accurately various native tunes played on a violin; 5. Committing to memory a Sanskrit verse and a sentence in Latin, the words forming these being numbered and given in any order in instalments; 6. Counting strokes of a bell rung at intervals during the performance, and giving the accurate total at the end of it; 7. Distinguishing by sound the cup struck each time out of 11 cups yielding various sounds; 8. Repeating a number of serial digits given out of order; 9. Giving the total number of strokes given with a rattan on the back of the performer during the performance; 10. Solving problems in permutation and combination; 11. Filling up magic squares; 12. Giving out in order cards in a cut pack and naming the balance in each suit left in the remaining pack, etc. The Professor went through the various feats with scarcely a hitch, his mental operations, on figures being simply astounding. The performance concluded at 9 p.m. with an impromptu Sanskrit complimentary aloka on a given subject, that selected being Pachaiyappah's Hall.

AN Emergency meeting of St. John Lodge, No. 618, S.C., will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, on Friday, the 24th instant, at 5 for 5.30 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

"THERE'S no use thryin' to edjycate the Chinee," said Patrolman Flynn. "They don't even know their own language. Ol asked wan o' them phwat the worrud fur St. Patrick's day was in Chinese, and be hevins he cudn' tell me."

CHAN A LAI, the man arrested at British Kowloon on Sunday last for piracy, was again brought before Mr. Wise at the Police Court this morning. Two seamen, who identified the prisoner, gave evidence similar to that already reported, and the case was adjourned till Monday.

THE census of Penang, taken on the 15th inst., shews that the grand total for the settlement was 227,368. By the last census, 1881, the population of the Settlement, which then included the Dindings, was 190,597, thus shewing a nominal increase in present population of 36,771, or nearly 20 per cent. more. When the Dindings figures come to be considered the increase, of course, will be found to be much greater.

IN Parliament, on the 10th ult., Mr. Beaufoy asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he had received any information as to the murder of Mr. and Mrs. Keeble in Tonquin in January last; and, if so, whether any steps had been taken to bring their murderers to justice—Sir J. Fergusson: No information has been received by Her Majesty's Government beyond a statement in the French *Journal Officiel* of March 16th, but Her Majesty's Ambassador has been instructed to ask the French Government whether they can furnish any details.

LIFE IN VICTORIA GAOL.

(Continued.)

V.

"It is in regard to sins in which we are found out that we may say or sing (in an undertone, in a most penitent and lugubrious minor key) *misere nobis, miseris peccatoribus.*

Thackeray.

Gaol is intended for people who have done wrong, and the system that has been evolved

"Since man first pensed his fellowmen,
Like brutes within an iron den,"

has been directed, at least latterly, first to the punishment, and secondly to the reformation, of the offender. The post of Superintendent of a gaol cannot be pleasant to a man who is "full o' the milk of human kindness." In the first place necessity compels that a prisoner should be deprived of anything which approaches comfort, as I have already tried to shew. In the second he must (within certain limits) be made careful not to get in again. The "card-playing in which European prisoners participate," according to our morning contemporary, was not *en evidence* during my term of residence As I have tried to convey in previous articles, hard work, poor diet, unquestioning obedience, and complete silence are the order of the day—to offend is to suffer. Some officers will overlook the exchange of an occasional word—others will report a man almost for a whisper. To have failed to complete the task of oakum-picking, to drop the shot, carry away food for consumption at leisure in the cell, possess anything that has not been served out, cast a contemptuous glance at an officer, move without asking leave—all these things, and very many more, constitute grounds for a report, and as a rule are taken full advantage of by the myrmidons who have been clothed in a little brief authority. For instance a man may ask another if it "isn't nearly eleven?"—a harmless inquiry, surely. The officer need not say anything at the time, but simply fills up a form (I have seen more than one such) with the words "No.—, tawking in Uropen yard." Next morning, about nine o'clock, No. — is ordered to drop his work and join the batch of offenders against discipline who are daily paraded before the Superintendent. After waiting a while he is marched down to the office and, when his turn comes, is pushed into a doorway to hear what he was done, as described by the party in uniform. What is alleged against him need not be true, it will be all the same to him, for the golden rule in gaol is "Don't believe a prisoner." If it is his first offence, and not serious, he is cautioned; if his second he will get anything from simple bread-and-water to "solitary", (which means the dark cell) for three days. Bread and water means also removal from the European yard to one's cell for the time allotted. But "solitary" is terrible. I was told that all the cells were pretty well-supplied with vermin in warm weather—I saw none—but the dark cells, situated on the ground floor, are simply crawling with blackbeetles, spiders, and other loathsome creatures. A man who gets in there is practically dead for the next 48 or 72 hours; Cimmerian blackness surrounds him so completely that he only knows it is night by the fact that he has had his two thin blankets thrown in at 8 p.m., and by the unusual stillness. A Chinaman doesn't mind it one bit; a sailor can stand it; but when (as I have seen with pity) a European accustomed to comparative luxury is sentenced to be so immured he emerges a year older in appearance. And a magistrate can sentence a man to fourteen days there, with only one day of grace each week.

The chief offences are talking and having tobacco. Be he who he may, almost, a prisoner will get tobacco somehow. Exchanging bread with Chinese is the general way of obtaining it. How they get it they alone know. Still, the fact remains that they do, and on occasion even a cigar can be come by. Chewing is the principal use the weed is put to, and I have known an officer suddenly seize by the throat a man whom he suspected of having a quid, and tell him to open his mouth, to make sure. If the man couldn't swallow quicker than the turnkey could grab it was a case of very frugal fare for the next few days. Sometimes a few small plugs of cake tobacco will be thrown over the wall into the yard, and the officer will see them. He at once orders the men near by to stand up and strip, and proceeds to search, first them, and then their clothing. And yet in spite of all they will conceal the treasured luxury sometimes.

The Chinese are punished much oftener than the foreign prisoners, especially for idleness, when their relative number is considered. The way they look at the matter is this—if they do their task, picking oakum or whatever it is, they will get 10 lbs. of rice a day, and have to work hard for it; if they do nothing they will get 1lb., and that is quite as much as they want—especially if they are only in for a week or so. So, day after day, numbers of them are arraigned for refusing to work, with utter indifference. If they have risen to the dignity of a billet they are more careful, as a slip will not only entail the loss of the position but may consign the offender to crank labor for a week. All Chinese prisoners on penal labor have to work at crank, and turn a wheel, lifting a dead weight of 12lbs., 17,500 times a day. Sometimes they won't do it, and, tying their belt to the bell-wire or cell-gate, start to hang themselves. Frequently they are caught, and reported for "trying to strangle themselves." It is difficult to punish a man who doesn't mind hanging, but a caution may be given, or he may be threatened with a flogging next time—if he doesn't outrun the constable by succeeding. If it is a simple

case of point-blank refusal to work, his case is worse—he is almost certain to be flogged. This used to be done in public, but now-a-days the doctor and a few officers are alone present. I had a quiet private view of one of these flagellations one morning, and I never want to see another. A stalwart Swede (in consideration of some two or three dollars a month extra) officiates, the instrument of punishment being a rattan about an inch thick and five or six feet long. The recalcitrant prisoner stands against an apparatus not easy to describe; it is something like a housemaid's "pair of steps," only that it is very strong, and there is only one big rung, against which the prisoner leans. His feet are tied to each side of the ladder, and his hands triced above his head. The flogger, divested of his coat, stands on the right-hand side, grasping the terrible tawse with nervous firmness. As the head officer present calls out "One" he swings the cane with a loud "swish," to take aim, then, sweeping it back into position, delivers a cut with all his might, leaving a long red weal on the flesh, and generally extorting a sharp "Ha!" from the prisoner. "Two," and the cane, after its almost equally-terrible preliminary "swish-swish!" falls on the same spot. The flogee is hauled up too tightly to move, but his body quivers in every fibre. Before half-a dozen (the usual number for refusing to work crank) are delivered the blood begins to flow, and if more strokes are to be endured his eyelids are often seen to close—the only indication he can give that insensibility has mercifully supervened. It is a terrible punishment, extremely unpleasant to inflict, even, but it is necessary. Without it discipline would be an unknown quantity among the horde of pirates and thieves who form so large a proportion of the inmates. A few months ago—about November last, for instance—it was grossly overdone, floggings were of daily occurrence, on the slightest grounds; under Major-General Gordon's more merciful *regime* they became almost unknown. Most of the cases now are those sent by the Magistrate and Judges, and very inconsistent the sentences often are. I knew a Chinese prisoner—a scoundrel whose atrocious crime merited anything short of hanging—who suffered I think ninety strokes half-a-dozen years ago, and deserved them. This week the Acting Puisne Judge, I notice, sentenced a man (who had at most planned quite a commonplace robbery, for bolder spirits to execute) to nearly the same number of strokes! And I have seen a tiny youngster—a budding earring-snatcher, it is true, but still a frail little fellow apparently only some twelve years old—receive a dozen cuts with the rattan at the hands of the professional whipper, and be led, bleeding and half-fainting, to Hospital. They have, on occasion, flogged Englishmen—a soldier took 24 strokes last year, I think, for knocking an officer down a flight of steps, and another military prisoner I heard was only saved from a similar punishment through an order coming for his immediate release, just as the triangles were being put up!

(To be continued.)

FORMOSA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

KELUNG, April 4th.

Ordered by H.E. the Governor, three different kinds of powder, brown prismatic, black prismatic and pebble powder, were tried on the 2nd instant in one of the 6-inch guns on the High Fort, by the military instructor, Lieut. Hecht. He has no instruments here to measure the muzzle velocity, etc., and could only make the trial by firing at targets a measured distance off, with charges made in proper weights, according to Armstrong range-tables. The result was very satisfactory as regards the black prismatic and the pebble powder; the brown prismatic appeared to be less powerful in its effects, as the shells fell short of the target by the right elevation of the gun; in future the charges of this kind of powder will be increased. I was courteously invited to be present at this trial, and have great pleasure in stating that the whole battery, including the men and buildings, is kept in a perfect state, and the men were well drilled. Everything looked clean and in good order. The last new industry here is gold-washing. When the railway towards this end was ballasted, some gold dust was found amongst the sand near the so-called Kelung River, which here runs swiftly round the hills and over stony rapids. Now an old gold washer from California has the thing in hand; I saw quite a number of men working in the bed of the river when last I passed it, and the first gold has actually been exported.

The locomotive runs daily through from Kelung Wharf to Twatutia, but the end station for passenger traffic is on this side the tunnel, about 20 minutes walk from the wharf. One weak place on the embankment has yet to be strengthened properly before the passenger carriages are allowed to run down to the wharf. To the south of Twatutia a new station was just to have been opened when a very heavy rain caused a landship about 4 miles south of Peaks, where there is a very deep cutting. As soon as this is repaired the line will be opened a good distance to the south. From Kelung to Twatutia cargo has been shipped already.

The land to the south of Twatutia is beautifully cultivated and rich in produce. When I passed it last week I saw large fields of indigo, sugar and tea, besides the large rice fields. Towards a town called Tokokan, by the river which runs past Twatutia, I saw the best cultivated tea gardens that I ever came across in my life; miles upon miles of square, flat fields of tea, with hedges of brushwood for shelter, all kept perfectly clean by being ploughed between the rows, and hoed and weeded round the plants. It is a plateau some 2,300 feet above the level of the sea and through it the river makes its way, shooting down over rapids and through magnificent scenery towards Twatutia, which makes it quite interesting to go down in a rapid boat.

April 11th.

Last Sunday (5th) we were astonished to hear that the locomotive drivers had struck, and no trains were running in the forenoon. It seems that the Chinese management is divided into two parts; one for the working of the railway and one for repairing and maintaining locomotives and rolling-stock. A locomotive had just been in for overhaul and the Director for this branch wanted to try it; the other manager gave orders that he would only run a short distance and on no account pass the first station, but instead of that he got a carriage attached and went on this single railed line for a small pleasure excursion. That was last Saturday, the 4th instant. In the meanwhile the second train came back from Kelung in charge of Mr. W. Johnson; he was just through one of the cuttings west of Suitingka (midway between Kelung and Twatutia) and could fortunately see some distance ahead, when to his horror he saw a locomotive with a carriage coming right against him at a good speed. All ended well, as it was in such a place that they could see one another a good distance off, but when he came home a complaint was made to Mr. Brown, the European locomotive superintendent. As it appears that the Chinese Director for repairs would take no order from the railway manager, all the locomotive drivers struck and refused to run on the line until this matter was settled. The European manager, Mr. Matheson, then had an interview with the Governor, and although H.E. is sick at present, such is the strength of his will that everything was settled the same day; and such rules were given as thoroughly to stop such an occurrence in future.

Yesterday Lieut. Hecht tried all the guns on the new battery on Palm Island. Everything went off satisfactorily, and without mishap.—*Mercury.*

SARAWAK.

The apprehension which is sometimes felt at the reports of the scarcity of jungle produce is apparently groundless, and it is to be hoped will long remain so. These reports are of course based on the amount of rattans, gutta &c., which find their way into the bazaars, and on the dictum of the Dyak produce hunters. The Dyaks are supposed to range very widely in search of valuable produce, though in all probability their field of labour is only a very narrow strip of jungle bordering on the various waterways they come across on their travels; at any distance from such water-ways the heart of the forest are as yet untapped. This is demonstrated by the rich finds recently made by parties of gutta hunters who followed in the track of Mr. Hose when he cut a line from the back of Baram fort to the Limbang river, a feat which, with a large party, took nineteen days. Mr. Hose in his report states that the country passed through appeared as yet untouched, and gutta, and india rubber trees, with rattans were in profusion. The district is like many others in this country, sparsely populated and that only in proximity to rivers, so that were a few tracks cut which would be useful as means of communication between places not always get-at-able by sea, plenty of jungle produce is to be found, the export duties on which if not in excess of, will almost certainly equal, and refund to the Government, the initial cost of making the track.

Rajah Brooke of Sarawak publishes the following order:—"Her Majesty the Queen having been pleased to appoint Noel Penrose Trevenen, Esquire, Consul for Sarawak, I hereby make known that he will be received with the usual salute and honors whenever he visits Sarawak, and I direct that all Officers in the Service shall do their utmost to assist him in the execution of his duties, and pay him the respect due his rank."

A story of unusual veracity and daring on the part of a python has reached us from Muka. At Judan, a village some six miles from Muka, a man and his son, aged from 10 to 12 years, were sleeping in their house, inside a mosquito curtain. They were on the floor near the wall. In the middle of the night the father was awakened by his son calling out, the lamp was out and the father passed his hand over his son but found nothing amiss so he turned over and went to sleep again, thinking the boy was dreaming. Shortly afterwards the child again called out saying that a crocodile was taking him. This time the father, thoroughly aroused felt again and found that a snake had closed his jaws on the boy's head; he then prized open the reptile's mouth and released the head of his son but the beast drew the whole of his body into the house, and encircled the body of the father; he was rescued by the neighbours, who were attracted by the cries for help of the terrified couple. The snake when killed was found to be about fifteen feet long. The head and forehead of the boy are encircled with punctured wounds produced by the python's teeth.—*Gazette.*

THE ROYAL GAME OF GOLF.

The game of golf is becoming exceedingly popular in many lands far removed from its birthplace—ancient Scotia. In England it is now one of the most fashionable of sports, and the interest in the game has extended of late to the United States. The game becomes most absorbing to those who are proficient, so much so, in fact, that it is said that the true golfer regards trees merely as "hazards," and the free winds of heaven cease in his eyes to be east, west, south or north, and become ahead, behind or sideways.

Golf, so it is said, may also be made an excellent means of flirtation—which, of course, must increase its popularity with the fair sex, and may even partially account for the extreme interest many ladies take in the game—but, whatever the reason, they frequently become most excellent golfers. Indeed, none but the blind need despair of learning the game. There have been celebrated players who possessed only one arm, and others equally as good who were minus a leg.

The antiquity of the game is undeniable; probably some sort of golf was played by ancient herdsman while tending their flocks, for they would inevitably sometimes notice a round pebble, and be equally certain, having in hand their crooks, to strike at it. From so simple a beginning has the game, it is supposed, been evolved.

Golf belongs to that large class of games which requires a ball to be either kicked, hit or caught, and which depends upon rivalry between the players for their interest. In golf each contestant has a small hard ball, at which he strikes as it lies upon the ground, with the intention of putting it into a certain hole. Once round the green is called a match, and each player attempts to get round with fewer blows than his opponents. A match is the best of nine, twelve or eighteen games or holes. The tee is the point started from after getting into a hole, and consists of a small pile of sand on which the ball is placed.

Whenever a stroke is attempted, whether it prove a hit or a miss, it is counted.

The distance between the tees and the holes varies from 100 yards to 500 yards.

A small flag is usually placed in the vicinity of each hole, to assist the player at a distance, and which is temporarily removed when the player is close by endeavoring to get in.

The links are best laid out on sandy land, and the course between the holes should be at least fifty yards wide. The course must be over grass land, and the finer the turf the better. Most of the Scottish links are situated near the seashore, and the sandy land was originally covered with a coarse growth of bent grass, but the actual ground played over between the holes is now covered with short turf.

Every good course has plenty of hazards, or places where a shot is lost unless the driving be far, or straight, or high. A bunker, on the contrary, is a sandhole into which the ball gets by mistake and much to the annoyance of the player. The best are natural ones, though frequently they have to be artificially dug.

Before the game can be indulged in scientifically a set of clubs must be provided. The articles themselves are simple enough, but the names certainly are a little puzzling to the uninitiated, though to the Scotch lad they present no terrors, for he has imbibed a knowledge of the game and the implements used in it with his mother's milk. Spoons, irons, cleeks, putters and niblicks are some of the more useful varieties.

For some mysterious reason golf balls are numbered from twenty-six to twenty-nine, and are either white, red or black. Most players prefer the white or else the red, but the black are the cheapest. Although a full set of clubs is highly desirable, it is not absolutely necessary, and the trio may commence with a cleek, a driver and a ball; but a full set includes a driver, a long spoon, a mid spoon, a short spoon, a cleek, an iron niblick and a putter. Every golfer must be accompanied by a "caddie" or "caudie"; in plain English, an attendant, whose duty is to carry the clubs and to make the tees. A good caddie is a delightful thing, but, unfortunately, extremely rare, for he should be bright, painstaking and, above all, sympathetic.

In places where golf is much played, as at the celebrated St. Andrew's links in Scotland, a race of professional caddies springs up to supply the demand; they are invariably Bohemians, and averse to any regular wage-earning business.

There is no road to first-rate proficiency in golf—practice is the great instructor. Should the tyro venture to ask instruction from an old player he is pretty sure to be told to keep his eye on the ball; a second demand will receive a like answer, and even a third a similar one. Yet there are other points to be attended to; for instance, the ball will not travel straight unless the feet are square to its proposed course, and if the very general fault of allowing the left foot to approach it more nearly than the right be fallen into, the ball will be likely to travel to the right of the mark aimed at. But still, notwithstanding these general faults, which all should avoid, every player must cultivate a style of his own and not copy some superior player, who may happen to be of a totally different build and shape. Two equally good golfers may play in very different form.

Any variation in the manner of holding the club is likely to make a change in the player's game. If the feet are too close, the swing of the club will be free, but will lack power; if too wide, the player becomes cramped. The attitude taken is called the "stance," and any preliminary motions made before striking the "address." "How ought I to grip my club?" is a question more easily asked than answered. Each man's style will differ, but it should not be forgotten that a swift blow, and not a heavy blow, is required. The essential point demanded in a good grip is that it be so arranged as to prevent the club slipping or twisting in the palms during any part of the swing.

The player will find that if he gets his hands under the club handle he will not be able to take a full swing; and, moreover, that if he have the right more under than the left, and is gripping tight, it will turn the club head in when it strikes the ball. The problem is to sweep the ball away with speed, and this is most surely accomplished by keeping the body firm as a fulcrum for the lever composed of his arms and club.

The beginner should not attempt too long a swing at first; that will come later on. The shoulder should be regarded as the centre of a circle, on the circumference of which the ball is situated. To carry out this idea the left arm must be kept taut, but not rigid; each man must find out for himself the position in which he is the most effective, and not copy too closely some fine player whose attitude may have won his admiration. But whatever style he adopts, one point he must attend to, the swing of the club should not be in any way checked. Young players should take up a natural position and hit the ball as best they can—for some days they are better without much advice.

A good cricketer finds some difficulty in mastering golf, for the reason that he has been taught to keep his hands up and his bat perpendicular, while with golf it is otherwise. The club should be used as a scythe to sweep, not strike, the ball. By following this rule and not letting the knuckles point too much toward the ground or keeping the club at too obtuse an angle with their arms, even a young player may play good golf. Swing, that bugbear of some rigidly built golfers, should come by causing the trunk to revolve on its own axis, instead of swaying back over the right leg.

A club three feet six inches in length is about right for men of average height, and it should be stiff, with just enough elasticity to make the ball go off easily.

Strength and style are of minor importance compared with accuracy. Precision is the main thing.

When a ball gets into a bunker the niblick must be used, and it will be found that most bunkered balls are best dislodged by a good, coarse jerk and half-swing.

The ball being nearer than a driven shot to the hole, it is said to be an approach shot, and requires great care. There are four clubs used for ordinary approach work—the putter, the cleek, the iron and the mashy. The first of these can only be used on very flat ground. The cleek is sometimes useful, but the iron is the best club generally for approaching.

"Putting" is the technical term for playing when near the hole, and a wooden club is best. Instead of a free swinging blow, "slaffing" or scraping along the ground is more likely to be successful.

These, briefly, are the main points of a game which possesses singular attraction for its votaries. The curler, the cricketer, and the baseball fiend are all enthusiastic in favor of their favorite sport, but such enthusiasm is as milk and water to strong wine compared to the love the golfer bears his pastime.

That the game is destined to take a strong and abiding hold on the American side of the Atlantic is firmly believed by many of those who are best qualified to judge, for it is a sport in which all may indulge, and in which both sexes may compete. Anything that leads our overworked business men to take exercise in the fresh air should be encouraged as far as possible, and certainly few games are more likely to effect this than golf. When once the golfing habit is acquired, the conversation of the devoted becomes intermingled with such strange terms as "putt," "cleek," "links," and "niblick," while even the necessary hours devoted to eating and sleep are grudgingly given.—*Boston Herald.*

"AUTOMATIC" STEAM ENGINES.

A CLEAR DEFINITION OF THESE TRIUMPHS OF MODERN SCIENCE.

No one will deny, says the *Safety Valve*, that the perfection attained in the manufacture of steam engines has been one of the most important factors in the promotion of our industrial progress, and yet we have seen it suggested several times of late that these efforts to attain perfection have been in some respects misdirected. The best engine of the time is the simplest, provided that efficiency and economy go hand in hand with simplicity, but the endeavour to secure simplicity has in some instances led manufacturers to claim that their engines were not only automatic in the general acceptance of the term but really automatic in all that the word implies, i. e., that they would practically run themselves, the services of a skilled engineer in their operation being superfluous. This is altogether misconstruing the purport of the original use of the term "automatic" and is about as serious an error as a steam-engine manufacturer can fall into.

The term "automatic," as applied to a steam engine, meant, as all our readers are probably aware, automatic as far as the adjustment of the valves to meet the varying conditions of employment were concerned. No steam engine can be regarded as actually automatic; some attention is invariably necessary, and the less it is the more indispensable it will invariably be. To imagine that they are studying the interests of their patrons by recommending the employment of unskilled labour in connection with so expensive a piece of mechanism as a first-class steam engine, is to fall into a grievous error. Such a policy is almost certain to result in disaster. No matter how simple the machine, its highest efficiency is only attained in skilful hands; the bungler is just as likely to ruin its reputation as its mechanism. The more perfect the operation of the engine the greater opportunity for the display of practical skill.

Moreover, the assertion that a steam-engine will run without skilled assistance is a reflection on the value of the skilled engineer that he will be prompt to resent. Human intelligence and mechanical good judgment find their highest application in the operation of a steam engine. No matter how smoothly such a machine may run, some hitch or defect is constantly liable to occur, and then where is the unskilled? He bungles and doctors, and ultimately does a large amount of damage, whereas a competent man would go right to the source of trouble and devise means for its correction. It is about time that manufacturers understood that the engine that "runs itself" is not what the prudent buyer is looking for, but rather the engine that is capable, in competent hands, of furnishing the best results at the least possible cost to the user.

Intimations.

FURNISH THROUGHOUT

AT THE

HONGKONG TRADING CO., LTD.

THE LARGEST AND MOST CONVENIENT

FURNISHING ESTABLISHMENT IN HONGKONG.

CABINET FURNITURE,

BEDSTEADS, CARPETS,

HOUSEHOLD LINENS,

LACE CURTAINS, CHINA, CUTLERY, &c., &c.

ALL READY FOR IMMEDIATE USE.

PRICES WILL COMPARE FAVORABLY WITH ANY HOUSE IN THE EAST.

NEW PREMISES,

COLONIAL HOUSE.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1891. [368

THE

CRITERION DINING SALOON.

PRICE LIST.

BREAKFAST	30 Cents.	DINNER	50 Cents.
LUNCH	35 "	SUPPER	50 "
	Cents.		*Cents.*
Beefsteak, Plain	15	Mutton Chop, Tomato Sauce	20
Porter House Steak with Mushrooms	50	Broiled Chicken (half)	20
		Red Herrings	10
Mutton Chop, Plain	15	All Cold Meats	10
		German Sausage	20
		Tea	10
		Coffee	10
		Chocolate	10

WINES, SPIRITS, &c., &c.

Champagne	$3.00 per Quart.	$1.50 per Pint.	
Beer	40 "	20 "	
		Draught Ales and Stout	10 Cents per Glass.
		Wines, Spirits, &c.	10 " "
		Aerated Water	10 " "

516] Proprietor E. FUCHS.

To-day's Advertisements.

THE SCOTTISH ORIENTAL STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW AND BANGKOK.

THE Company's Steamship

"DEVAWONGSE,"

Captain P. H. Loff, will be despatched for the above Ports on FRIDAY, the 24th instant, at 10 a.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

YUEN FAT HONG,
Agents.

Hongkong, 22nd April, 1891. [615

STEAM TO STRAITS AND BOMBAY,
(Calling at Colombo if sufficient inducement offers).

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship

"THIBET,"

Captain W. L. Brown, will leave for the above places on SATURDAY, the 25th inst., at NOON.

E. L. WOODIN,
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 22nd April, 1891 7 [56

COMPLIMENTARY DANCE
TO THE
GARRISON.

CIVILIANS desirous of subscribing to the above will kindly submit names as early as possible to the undersigned.

G. J. W. KING,
Secretary.
c/o Messrs. CARMICHAEL & Co.,
Praya Central.

Hongkong, 22nd April, 1891. [613

To-day's Advertisements.

A SERIES of CONCERTS, as below, under the patronage of H.E. Major-General G. DIGBY BARKER, C.B., and Officers of the Garrison, will be held in aid of the Widow and 5 Orphans of the late BOMBARDIER ASHDOWN, Royal Artillery:—

THIS EVENING, 22nd April,
Army and Navy, Garrison Theatre.

THURSDAY, 23rd April.

THEATRE ROYAL,
CITY HALL, HONGKONG.

PROGRAMME.

PART I.

Song.—"Forbidden Music".....Gastoldon.
Mr. E. L. Hunter.
Song.—"Life".....Blumenthal.
Mrs. Gordon.
Song.—"Mary Morison".....Sullivan.
Mr. D. Macdonald.
Duet.—"A Night in Venice".....Lucantoni.
Miss Lammert and Mr. G. P. Lammert.
Aria.—"Invocation à Vista".....Gounod.
(Polyeucte).
Miss Howard.

PART II.

Song.—"Douglas Gordon".....Laurence Kellie.
Mr. Smythe.
Song.—"Mother".....Tosti.
Mrs. G. S. Coxon.
Trio.—Two violins and piano.
Miss Pollard, Mr. G. von Wille and Mrs. Gillies.
Song.—"The Tollers".....Piccolomini.
Mr. C. H. Grace.
Quartette.
Messrs. Lammert, Maitland, Smythe & Crow.

To conclude with Offenbach's Operetta
"THE BLIND BEGGARS."
Zach Morgan.....H. H. Lightwood.
Buffles.....Dr. Eames, R.N.

Mr. N. Ruchwaldy's "Pizzicato" Pupils have kindly undertaken to play during the intervals.

FRIDAY, 24th April,
Army and Navy, Garrison Theatre.

SATURDAY, 25th April,
Army and Navy, Garrison Theatre.

The Concert on Saturday will be in aid of the Widow of the late Musketry Instructor RYAN, Civil Police.

PRICES OF ADMISSION:
Thursday—Dress Circle and Stalls, $1; Back Seats, 50 Cents.
Other Nights—1st Seats, $1; 2nd Seats, 50 Cents; 3rd Seats, 15 Cents.
Army and Navy, Half-Price on Thursday.

Tickets for Thursday Night can be obtained at Messrs. Kelly & Walsh. For other Nights from the Garrison Sergeant-Major or at the Door.

Hongkong, 21st April, 1891. [609

CONSULAT DE FRANCE.

CONTRACT FOR THE FRENCH.

TENDERS are required for the SUPPLY of COALS to the French Men-of-war in this Harbour during one year to begin on the 15th May next.

Specifications and forms of Tenders can be seen on application to the French Consulate between the hours of 10 a.m. to Noon and 2 to 4 p.m. daily.

Tenders to be sent under sealed covers on or before SATURDAY, the 25th instant, at 9 a.m., to the French Consulate.

Hongkong, 22nd April, 1891. [614

PHOTOGRAPHY.

H. YERA begs to announce to the public that his STUDIO, No. 8, Arsenal Street, Wanchai, has been Enlarged and Entirely Refitted, Lighted, and Decorated.

More Skilful Artists have now arrived from Japan, and all styles of Portraiture to suit any taste can be taken.

TERMS MODERATE.

Specially reduced rates granted to Missionaries and Members of the Navy and Army.

A large Stock of magnificent Photos, Views, &c., on hand.

Hongkong, 22nd April, 1891. [617

ZETLAND LODGE,
No. 525.

A REGULAR MEETING of the above named Lodge will be held in the FREEMASONS' HALL, Zetland Street, on FRIDAY, the 1st May, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited.

Hongkong, 22nd April, 1891. [616

Notices of Firms.

NOTICE.

THE PARTNERSHIP between HOLMES and RODYK, Solicitors, is dissolved to-day by mutual consent.

HENRY J. HOLMES.
ARTHUR B. RODYK.

Hongkong, 14th April, 1891.

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned will carry on business at his OFFICE No. 54, Queen's Road.

HENRY J. HOLMES,
Solicitor.

Hongkong, 14th April, 1891. [579

Intimations.

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned undertakes to produce First Class Photographs. Gentlemen wishing to patronize may have PROOFS OF PHOTOS sent to them for approval, and if not satisfied, no charge will be made.

Cabinets (enamelled).....$5 a dozen.
Cartes de Visite do. 2 "

PUN WOO, PHOTOGRAPHER,
84, Queen's Road Central,
(Top Floor of Teen Sing, Bookbinder).

Hongkong, 17th February, 1891. [298

NOTICE.

GRIFFITH'S PHOTOGRAPHIC ROOMS 1, Ice House Road are suitably lighted to produce all styles of Portraiture in any weather.

CABINETS from $6 a dozen.
CARTES DE VISITE from $3 a dozen.
LIFE SIZED BUSTS in Colour, or Black & White.
IVORY MINIATURES, &c., &c.
NEW VIEWS OF HONGKONG and the Coast Ports are always ready.

Hongkong, 24th September, 1890. [38

Amusements.

THEATRE ROYAL,
CITY HALL.

THE HONGKONG CHORAL SOCIETY
will, (by special request), give a
THIRD PERFORMANCE
OF
Burnand and Sullivan's Comic Opera
"THE CONTRABANDISTA,"
OR,
"THE LAW OF THE LADRONES,"
ON
SATURDAY, the 25th April,
at 9 o'clock p.m.

Tram Cars will run at suitable hours from and to the Peak.

Dress Circle and Stalls$2.00
Back Seats, Stalls 1.00

Tickets obtainable at Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co.'s, on and after Thursday, the 23rd April, at 10 a.m.

Hongkong, 21st April, 1891. [608

Auctions.

PUBLIC AUCTION
OF
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, PIANOS, HARMONIUM, &c.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to Sell by Public Auction, on

SATURDAY, —
the 25th April, 1891, commencing at 2.30 p.m. sharp, at the residence of A. HAHN, Esq.,
No. 25, Caine Road,
THE WHOLE OF HIS
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c.,
Comprising:—

CRETONNE COVERED DRAWING-ROOM SUITE, CENTRE and SIDETABLES, PAINTINGS, ENGRAVINGS, OVERMANTELS, LACE CURTAINS, FENDERS and IRONS, &c.

TEAK EXTENSION DINING TABLE and CHAIRS, CROCKERY, GLASS and PLATED WARE, CUTLERY, &c., GLASS BACK SIDEBOARD, WHATNOTS, ORNAMENTS, &c.

DOUBLE IRON BEDSTEAD, Marble-top WASHING STAND and DRESSING TABLE, WARDROBES, BED-ROOM FURNITURE, &c.

SELF ACTING PARLOUR FOUNTAIN.
GRAND PIANO by Collard and Collard.
COTTAGE PIANO.
HARMONIUM.
&c., &c., &c.

Catalogues will be issued prior to Sale, and the above will be on view on Friday next.

TERMS OF SALE.—Cash on delivery.

G. R. LAMMERT,
Auctioneer.

Hongkong, 20th April, 1891. [606

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

THE following Particulars of Sale of Crown Land by Public Auction, to be held on the spot, on

MONDAY,
the 27th day of April, 1891, at 4 P.M., are published for general information.

By Command,

W. M. DEANE,
Acting Colonial Secretary

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 11th April, 1891. [605

Particulars of the Public Auction Sale, to be held on Monday, the 27th day of April, 1891, at 4 P.M., by Order of His Excellency the Governor, of One Lot of CROWN LAND, in the Colony of Hongkong, for a term of 999 years.

					No. of Sale.	
Inland Lot No. 1,251.					Registry No.	
Cross Lane, (Wanchai Road).					Locality.	
55' 59'	feet.	N.	Measurements.	Boundary.		PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.
187·6	feet.	S.				
70'	feet.	E.				
130'	feet.	W.				
15,120				Contents in Square feet.		
208			$		Annual Rent.	
3,780			$		Upset Price.	

Consignees.

UNION LINE.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM ANTWERP, HAMBURG, PENANG AND SINGAPORE.

THE Steamship
"KHIO,"
Captain A. Tyson, having arrived from the above ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading to the undersigned for countersignature, and to take immediate delivery of their Goods from alongside.

The steamer is berthed at Kowloon Piers and Cargo impeding her discharge will be at once landed and stored at Consignees' risk and expense, and no Fire Insurance will be effected.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the undersigned on or before the 30th April, or they will not be recognised.

Consignees will be required to sign an Average Bond before taking delivery of their Cargoes.

RUSSELL & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 20th April, 1891. [604

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

NOTICE.

CONSIGNEES of CARGO per Steamship "CITY OF PEKING."

The above Steamer having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading for Countersignature, and to take immediate delivery of their Goods from alongside.

Cargo impeding the discharge of the Vessel will be landed and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

J. S. VAN BUREN,
Acting Agent.

Hongkong, 17th April, 1891. [6

Commercial.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, ex New Issue, 198 per cent.—premium, sellers.
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, cum New Issue. —230 per cent., sellers.
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, New Issue.—$196 per cent. premium, sellers.
Union Insurance Society of Canton—$95 per share, buyers.
China Traders' Insurance Company—$63 per share, buyers.
North China Insurance—Tls. 275 per share, buyers.
Canton Insurance Company, Limited—$115 per share, sellers.
Yangtsze Insurance Association—Tls. 70 per share, nominal.
On Tai Insurance Company, Limited—Tls. 150 per share.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company—$315 per share, sellers.
China Fire Insurance Company—$82½ per share, sales.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company—$98 per cent. premium, sellers.
Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.—$133 per share, sellers.
China and Manila Steam Ship Company—120 per share, sellers.
Hongkong Gas Company—$131 per share, sellers.
Hongkong Hotel Company—$120 per share, buyers.
Hongkong Hotel Co.'s Six per-cent. Debentures —$501.
Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Limited —30 per cent. discount, sellers.
Douglas Steamship Company—$48 per share, sellers.
China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—$198 per share, sellers.
Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited—$92 per share, sellers.
Hongkong Ice Company—$90 per share, buyers.
Hongkong and China Bakery Company, Limited —$75 per share.
Hongkong Dairy Farm Co., Limited—$7 per share, sellers.
A. S. Watson & Co., Limited—$21½ per share, buyers.
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 B—2½ per cent. premium, sellers.
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 C—5 per cent. premium, buyers.
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1886 E—14 per cent. premium.
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Limited—$122 per share, ex. div., sales and buyers.
The Hongkong Steam Laundry Co., Limited—$25 per share, nominal.
Punjom and Sunghie Dua Samantan Mining Co. —$3 per share, sellers.
The Raub Gold Mining Co., Limited—80 cents per share, buyers.
Imuris Mining Co., Limited—$12½ per share, buyers.
The Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited—$7 per share, sellers.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company—$79 per share, buyers.
Tonquin Coal Mining Co.—$430 per share, buyers.
The Hongkong High-Level Tramway Co., Limited—$65 per share, buyers.
The East Borneo Planting Co., Limited—$10 per share, sellers.
H. G. Brown & Co., Limited—$54 per share, sellers.
The Songei Koyah Planting Co., Limited—$13½ per share, buyers.
Cruickshank & Co., Limited—$35 per share, nominal.
The Steam Launch Co., Limited—nominal.
The Austin Arms Hotel and Building Company, Limited—$13 per share, sellers.
The China-Borneo Co., Limited—$6 per share, sellers.
The Hongkong Brick and Cement Co., Limited —$12 per share, sellers.
The Green Island Cement Co.—$17 per share, sellers.
The Hongkong Land Investment Co., Limited—$87 per share, sellers.
The Hongkong Electric Light Co., Limited—$6 per share, buyers.
Geo. Fenwick & Co., Limited—$15 per share, sellers.
The West Point Buildings Co., Limited—$30 per share, sellers.
The Peak Hotel and Trading Co., Limited—$8 per share, sellers.
The Labuk Planting Co., Limited—$25 per share, sellers.
The Lamag Planting Co., Limited—$7 per share, buyers.
The Jelebu Mining and Trading Co., Limited—$2 per share, buyers.
The Selama Tin Mining Co., Limited—$1 per share, sellers.
The Shameen Hotel Co., Limited—nominal.
The Kowloon Land Investment Co., Limited—$15 per share, buyers.
The Bank of China & Japan & the Straits Ld.—$18 per share, sellers.
The Bank of China & Japan & the Straits Ld.—Founders' shares, £180 per share, sellers.
The Hongkong Marina, Limited—nominal.
London and Pacific Petroleum Co., Limited—£15, sellers.
The National Bank of China, Ld.,—27½ per cent. dis., sales and sellers.
The National Bank of China, Ld., Founders' shares—$400 per share, sellers.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON—Bank, T. T. 3/1⅝
Bank Bills, on demand.....3/1⅝
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight ...3/2⅛
Credits at 4 months' sight 3/2⅛
Documentary Bills, at 4 months' sight 3/2⅛
ON PARIS—
Bank Bills, on demand 3.96
Credits, at 4 months' sight 4.05
On India, T. T. 222½
On Demand.....222½
ON SHANGHAI—
Bank, T. T. 72⅛
Private, 30 days' sight 72⅛

Shipping.

ARRIVALS.

DOROTHY, British bark, 310, Angus Croal, 21st April,—Pitago 2nd April, Timber.—Gibb, Livingston & Co.
THIBET, British steamer, 2,665, W. L. Brown, 21st April,—Nagasaki 16th April, General. —P. & O. S. N. Co.
SYDNEY, French steamer, 2,133, Delacroix, 22nd April,—Marseilles 22nd March, Singapore 15th April, and Saigon 19th, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes.
MARTHA, German steamer, 1,580, Ahrenkiel, 22nd April,—Whampoa 22nd April, General. —Tong Tai Cheong & Co.
VARING, Norwegian bark, 302, O. P. Larsen, 22nd April,—Kei Island 17th March, Timber.—Siemssen & Co.
STORE NORDISKE, Danish steamer, 596, Petersen, 22nd April,—from a cruise.—G. N. Telegraph Co.

CLEARANCES AT THE HARBOUR OFFICE.

Martha, German steamer, for Kobe.
Tilan, British steamer, for Singapore, &c.

DEPARTURES.

April 22, *Tritos*, German str., for Whampoa.
April 22, *Melbourne*, British str., for Saigon, &c.
April 22, *Avochfe*, British steamer, for Saigon.
April 22, *Sungkiang*, British str., for Foochow.
April 22, *Zafiro*, British str., for Amoy, &c.
April 22, *Sin Nansing*, British str., for Amoy.
April 22 *Fushun*, Chinese str., for Whampoa.

PASSENGERS—ARRIVALS.

Per *Sydney*, str., from Marseilles for Hongkong.—Mr. and Mrs. Woodley, Messrs. G. Haole, von Tanner, Ling Tsen Fong, Tcheng Kin Ping, Li Ta Cheon, Lou Sion Meng, Yang Tse Cheng, and Dewost. From Singapore.—Mr. and Mrs. Farago and servant, Messrs. C. D. Cobban, A. Ghey, and Cowen. From Saigon.—Mr. Boutier, and 60 Chinese. From Marseilles for Shanghai. —Messrs. W. R. Eastlar, H. E. Bush, Maltby, P. Brunat, Hamer, J. Calder, J. Appay, W. White, N. Nenumin, and Gordon. From Marseilles for Hiogo.—Mr. K. Mayeda. From Singapore.—Mr. Otake. From Marseilles for Yokohama.—Viscount Takanori Mori, Messrs. Fujiyeda, Emil Stenzel, and E. B. Skottore. From Alexandria. —Mr. Heldmann. From Colombo.—Mr. K. C. MacIver. From Singapore.—Miss Oyassa, Messrs. J. J. Masson and Shibuya. From Saigon.—Mr. Pietri.

DEPARTED.

Per *Melbourne*, str., from Hongkong for Saigon.—8 Chinese. For Singapore,—Rev. E. Lemonnier, Messrs. M. A. dos Remedios, L. dos Remedios, D. J. Ribeiro, and H. Woodford. For Batavia.—2 Chinese. For Marseilles.—Mr. and Mrs. F. Schjoth, 4 children and amah, Mr. and Mrs. Ths. Poulter, Revds. S. M. A. Silva, G. H. Innocent, Dr. Abernethy, Messrs. D. McGlashan, H. W. Chandler, L. E. Riollé, Angé, Cavallan, Ottinetti, and Sharpel. From Shanghai for Saigon.—Messrs. G. Augustin, Jules Leleure, J. M. Rival, C. Catuel, Victor Auguille, Léon Robin, Lucien Gallard, Durand, Léon-Beaulieu, Yoes Ollivier, Pierre Salaün, and Celestin Charregre. For Marseilles.—Mr. and Mrs. W. Lay, Mrs. d'Arnoux, Mrs. H. A. Collins and infant, Miss Jones and amah, Miss Vachez, Captain Seiffert, Messrs. Léon Vachez and J. Mascarello. From Yokohama for Saigon.—Mr. Degron. For Marseilles.—Mr. and Mrs. Orsolle von Parys, Miss Th. Lesueur, Messrs. Stello Petsaly and Mitzuno Shobago. From Kobe.—Mr. A. Breton.
Per *Changsha*, str., for Port Darwin.—Mr. H. A. Melville. For Brisbane.—Mr. and Mrs. Johnson. For Sydney.—Mr. W. H. Gill.

REPORTS.

The British steamship *Thibet* reports that she left Nagasaki on the 16th instant. Had fine weather.

Post Office.

A MAIL WILL CLOSE.

For Swatow and Dell.—Per *Tai-cheong* to-morrow, the 23rd instant, at 9.30 A.M.
For Swatow, Amoy, and Tamsui.—Per *Hailoong* to-morrow, the 23rd instant, at 11.30 A.M.

SHIPPING IN HONGKONG.

STEAMERS.

ABYSSINIA, British steamer, 2,148, J. C. Williamson, R.N.R., 1st April,—Saigon 27th March, Rice.—Kung Yuen.
ACTIV, Danish steamer, 355, H. Hygam, 18th April,—Haiphong 14th April, Rice.—A. R. Marty.
AMIGO, German steamer, 771, T. Bruhn, 9th April,—Saigon 4th April, Rice and Paddy. —Wieler & Co.
ASAGAO, Japanese steamer, 1,521, H. Selck, 21st April,—Nagasaki 16th April, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Colliery.
CITY OF PEKING, American steamer, 3,129, R. R. Searle, 17th April,—San Francisco 21st March, and Yokohama 11th April, Mails and General.—P. M. S. S. Co.
DEUTEROS, German steamer, 1,197, W. Dinse, 20th April,—Saigon 15th April, Rice.—Siemssen & Co.
DEVAWONGSE, British steamer, 1,057, P. H. Loff, 20th April,—Bangkok 13th April, General. —Yuen Fat Hong.
GHAZEE, British steamer, 1,764, A. Scotland, 20th April,—Saigon 16th April, General —Adamson, Bell & Co.
GWALIOR, British steamer, 2,733, F. J. Jephson, 18th April,—Bombay 1st April, and Singapore 12th, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.
HAILOONG, British steamer, 783, Roach, 18th April,—Tamsui 15th April, Amoy 16th, and Swatow 18th, General.—D. Lapraik & Co.
HAIPHONG, French steamer, 845, Bousquet, 21st April,—Haiphong 18th April, General.—Messageries Maritimes.
KHIO, British steamer, 1,552, A. Tyson, 18th April,—London 26th Feb., and Singapore 11th April, General.—Russell & Co.
LANCELOT, British steamer, 1,564, J. Thomas, 19th April,—Saigon 14th April, Rice and Paddy.—Arnhold, Karberg & Co.
NANSHAN, British steamer, 805, J. Blackburne, 14th April,—Bangkok 6th April, Rice.—Hop Hing Hong.
PARTHIA, British steamer, 2,035, John Panton, R.N.R., 15th April,—Saigon 11th April, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.
SIKH, British steamer, 1,736, J. Rowley, 17th April,—Saigon 13th April, Rice and General. —Adamson, Bell & Co.
THANCE AY, Chinese steamer, 350, Wong Ling Sing, 11th Dec.,—Haiphong 27th Dec., Ballast.—Chinese.
TITAN, British steamer, 1,525, R. J. Brown, 21st April,—Shanghai 16th April, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
WHITE HEATHER, British steam-yacht, 637, Caines, 17th April,—Singapore 9th April.

SAILING VESSELS.

ADOLPH OBRIG, American bark, 1,376, F. Carleton, 5th March,—New York 31st August, Kerosene Oil.—Reuter, Brockelmann & Co.
COLUMBUS, German ship, 1,428, L. Haesloop, 21st April,—Singapore 20th March, Timber. —Melchers & Co.
DON JUSTO, American bark, 703, B. Neilson, 21st April,—Singapore 28th Feb., Timber. Captain.
DOROTHEA, German bark, 620, H. F. Moeller, 25th March,—Hamburg 20th Oct., General. —Siemssen & Co.
HEINRICH, German bark, 923, F. H. Bannau, 22nd Feb.,—Hamburg 20th Sept., General. —Carlowitz & Co.
JAPAN, Peruvian bark, 398, M. Janila, 17th Nov.,—Callao (Peru) 30th August, General. —Gonsalves & Co.
JENNY, American schooner, 47, Baade, 9th Jan., —Yap 26th December, Beche-de-mer.—Master.
ORIENT, German bark, 451, H. R. Gontard, 6th April,—Singapore 10th Feb., Timber.—Wieler & Co.
PACTOLUS, American ship, 1,145, Wm. Beadle, 18th April,—Shanghai 3rd April, Ballast.—Russell & Co.
PREHOR, British bark, 450, C. Hansen, 7th April, —Kemo 12th March, Rattan.—Russell & Co.
SARA MERRIKDES, Peruvian schooner, 245, A Muniatgin, 4th July,—Saigon 27th June, Rice.—Captain.
WM. LE LACHEUR, British bark, 573, W. Auld, 7th March,—Honolulu 21st January, Iron, Copper, &c.—Wing Wo Chan & Co.

To be Let.

TO LET.

NOS. 9 & 11, SEYMOUR TERRACE.

ROOMS in College Chambers
No. 4, OLD BAILEY STREET.
OFFICES and CHAMBERS in Connaught House, Queen's Road Central.
OFFICES in Victoria Buildings.
No. 2, PEDDER'S HILL.
Apply to
DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.
Hongkong, 10th April, 1891. [12

TO BE LET SHORTLY.

AN exceedingly comfortable and cool 6 ROOMED HOUSE.
Apply to
THE SECRETARY,
Humphreys Estate & Finance Co., Ltd.

TO BE LET OR SOLD,
On favourable terms, with Immediate Possession.

EIGHT HOUSES at "Mountain View," Peak District, near Plunkett's Gap.
If sold, part of the Purchase money can remain on Mortgage.
Apply to
JOHN A. JUPP.
38 & 40, Queen's Road Central,
Hongkong, 10th April, 1891. [36

TO LET AT THE PEAK,
Possession 1st May, 1891.

THE HOUSE "CREGGAN." Best position.
Apply to
M. S. SASSOON & Co.
Hongkong, 16th April, 1891. [509

THE KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.

TO LET,
KNUTSFORD TERRACE,
KOWLOON.

HOUSES with 5 ROOMS, including Bath-rooms. Tennis Courts. Good view and Healthy situation. Rent and Taxes $32, a month.
Apply to
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY Co., Ltd.
Hongkong, 24th March 1891 [482

TO LET,
With Immediate Possession.

No. 17, PRAYA CENTRAL.

OFFICES—above Messrs. Douglas, Lapraik & Co.'s Premises.
Apply to
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY Co., Ld.
Hongkong, 16th December, 1890 [49

TO BE LET.

NO. 10, SEYMOUR TERRACE.
Apply to
HERCULES J. SCOTT.
Hongkong, 3rd February, 1891. [227

TO LET.

NOS. 25 & 27, ELGIN STREET, behind the Old Union Church.
Apply to
ACHEE & Co.
Hongkong, 25th February, 1891. [40

Hotels.

STAG HOTEL,
QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, HONGKONG.

THIS HOTEL, situated in the most Central part of Hongkong, has recently been refitted, and has excellent accommodation for visitors.
The Table is supplied with every delicacy of the Season.
WINES, LIQUORS, &c. of the very best quality only.
Charges Moderate.
HING LEE & Co.,
Proprietors.
Hongkong, 14th April, 1891. [578

THE SHAMEEN HOTEL
BRITISH CONCESSION, CANTON.

THIS FIRST CLASS HOTEL, admirably situated within a few minutes walk of the 'River Steamer Wharves,' is now open to receive Visitors.
The Bed-rooms are cool, airy and comfortably furnished, and the spacious Dining Room, Sitting Rooms, and accommodation generally will be found equal to the best Hotels in the Far East.
The Table D'Hôte is supplied with every luxury in season, and the cuisine is in experienced hands.
Wines, Spirits, Malt Liquors, etc., of the best quality only.
A. F. DO ROZARIO,
Manager.
Hongkong, 4th November, 1890. [1047

PEAK HOTEL,
VICTORIA GAP, PEAK,
Adjoining the Tramway Terminus.

THE most beautiful position in the environs of Hongkong situated 1,250 feet above sea level, commanding magnificient views of the City and Harbour of Victoria, the mainland of China and neighbouring islands.
Cool Southerly breezes in Summer with perfect protection from N.E. Winds of Winter.
The best accommodation of Visitors with every comfort, convenience and attention.
The Cuisine is under the best supervision and every luxury obtainable is supplied.
WINES, etc. the best Brands and finest qualities only are kept.
TERMS MODERATE.
Telephone No. 29.
PEAK HOTEL & TRADING Co., Ltd.,
Proprietors.
Hongkong, 13th February, 1891. [277

THE BOA VISTA.
BISHOP'S BAY, MACAO.

THIS House, situated on the sea shore in one of the best and healthiest parts of Macao, and commanding an admirable view facing the South, was OPENED as a HOTEL on the 1st July.
Every comfort will be provided for visitors, with excellent cuisine and choice Wines.
Hot, Cold, Shower and Sea Water Baths.
Large and well Ventilated Dining, Billiard, and Reading Rooms, and well supplied Bar.
A small dairy is attached to the premises.
MRS. MARIA H. DOS REMEDIOS,
Proprietress. [34

HONGKONG TIMBER YARD, WANCHAI.

OREGON PINE SPARS and LUMBER Always on Hand.
L. MALLORY.
Hongkong 24th June 1881. [955

Intimations.

THE PUNJOM AND SUNGHIE DUA SAMANTAN MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE is hereby given that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the above Company will be held at the Company's Office, No. 9, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong, TO-MORROW, the 23rd April, 1891, at 4 p.m., when the subjoined Resolution, which was passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company held this day, the 8th April, 1891, will be submitted for confirmation as a Special Resolution :—
"To Cancel and eliminate from the Articles of Association paragraph No. 2 of Article VI and substitute the following in lieu thereof :—
2. "The Directors in meeting may increase the Capital of the Company by the issue of sixty thousand shares of One Dollar each, and the Company in General Meeting may from time to time increase its Capital by the issue of shares to such further amount, and of such denomination, as the meeting may determine."
"To cancel and eliminate from the Articles of Association paragraph No 5 of Article XIII."
"That the Articles of Association be amended by the addition of the following clause after paragraph 11 of Sec. 16, viz :—
12. "That the Directors may at their discretion abandon or surrender the whole or any portion of the Company's property, Sunghie Dua Samantan, situated in the Malay State of Pahang, on such terms and conditions as they may deem fit."
"That it be an instruction to the Directors to issue the new shares as preference shares, and that the holders therefore entitled to a cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum."
"That in the event of the Company being wound up the holders of the said preference shares shall be entitled to have the surplus assets of the Company applied in the first place to repaying to them of the amount paid up on such preference shares, the residue of such surplus assets shall belong to and be divided among the ordinary shareholders of the Company."
By Order of the Board,
A. O'D. GOURDIN,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 8th April, 1891. [555

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

A COMPETITION for the Long Range HANDICAP CHALLENGE CUP and RANGE SPOONS, will be held on SATURDAY next, the 25th instant, commencing at 3.15 P.M. Distances 800 and 900 yards; usual conditions.
A Launch will leave the P. & O. Pier at 2.45 P.M. to convey competitors.
FRANK COLLINS,
Hon. Secretary.
N.B.—Competitors who have not yet paid their subscriptions to these Cups, are requested to forward the amount ($1 each cup) to the Hon. Treasurer.
Hongkong, 21st April, 1891. [65

G. FALCONER & CO.,
WATCH and CHRONOMETER MANUFACTURERS and JEWELLERS.
NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS, CHARTS and BOOKS.
No. 48, Queen's Road Central [912

J. & R. HARVEY & Co.,
DUNDASHILL DISTILLERY, GLASGOW.
Established 1770.

SCOTCH WHISKIES.
Finest Pure Malt Scotch Whisky.
O.H.M. Old Highland Malt Whisky.
F.O.S. Fine Old Scotch Whisky.
V.O.S. Very Old Scotch Whisky.

MESSRS. HARVEY & Co.'s Pure Malt Whiskies have for over fifty years commanded the largest sale in the English Market OF ANY WHISKY made in Scotland, and being thoroughly matured in Sherry Wood are very mild and mellow, and are confidently recommended where a Pure, Wholesome Spirit is desired.
Over one million Gallons produced annually
For Prices and Samples, apply to
G. RENNIE STEWART,
12, D'Aguilar Street, Hongkong.
Sole Agent for China and Japan.
Hongkong, 28th August, 1890. [369

NOTICE.

HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

SHIPMASTERS AND ENGINEERS are respectfully informed that, if upon their arrival in this HARBOUR none of the COMPANY'S FOREMEN should be at hand, ORDERS FOR REPAIRS, if sent to the HEAD OFFICE, No. 14, Praya Central, will receive prompt attention.
In the event of complaints being found necessary, communication with the Undersigned is requested, when immediate steps will be taken to rectify the cause of dissatisfaction.
D. GILLIES,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 20th August, 1888. [15

JOHN AMBROSE CLARKE,
Teacher of Officers and Engineers,
No. 75, WYNDHAM STREET,
Opposite Central Police Station.

CANDIDATES prepared for the MARINE BOARD EXAMINATIONS.
Author of the "NEW NAVIGATION"
And an "*Arithmetic*" for Engineers, $5.
Hongkong, 7th February, 1891. [246

SIEN TING,
SURGEON DENTIST,
No. 10, D'AGUILAR STREET.
TERMS VERY MODERATE,
Consultation free.
Hongkong, 18th March, 1891. [448

DENTISTRY.

FIRST CLASS WORKMANSHIP AND MODERATE FEES.

MR. WONG TAI-FONG,
Surgeon Dentist,
(Formerly articled Apprentice, and latterly assistant to Dr. DOGERS),
HAS REMOVED
TO
THE MARINE HOUSE,
QUEEN'S ROAD,
(next to the Telegraph Companies).
CONSULTATION FREE.
Hongkong, 7th March, 1891. [399

Intimations.

SHANGHAI RACES.

THE MESSAGERIES MARITIMES CO.
AND
THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAMSHIP NAVIGATION CO.

WILL issue RETURN TICKETS to SHANGHAI by their steamers leaving on or about the 8th, 14th, and 22nd instant, available for return by either Line and allowing of one month's stay at Shanghai.
FARES.—First Saloon$60.
" Second " 40.
Hongkong, 6th April, 1891. [534

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

HONGKONG DERBY, 1892.

THE WEIGHTS for the above RACE will be weight for inches, not 10st. 10lb. as heretofore.
E. H. GORE-BOOTH,
Clerk of the Course.
Hongkong, 17th March, 1891. [443

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY COMPANY, LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL$5,000,000.
PAID UP CAPITAL 2,500,000.
RESERVE FUND 1,250,000.

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Full particulars can be obtained at the Company's Offices, No. 5, Queen's Road Central.
A. SHELTON HOOPER,
Secretary.
Victoria Buildings,
Hongkong, 2nd May, 1890. [64

NOTICE.

THOMAS KERR & CO.

ENGINEERS, BOILER-MAKERS AND CONTRACTORS,
YAU-MA-TI ENGINEERING WORKS, KOWLOON.
OFFICE—No. 12, D'Aguilar Street.
Hongkong, 25th August, 1888. [30

Dr. Knorr's
ANTIPYRINE.
(Dose for Adults 15 to 30 grains troy.)

IS the most approved and most efficacious remedy in cases of HEADACHE, MIGRAINE, NEURALGIA, RHEUMATISM, FEVER, TYPHUS, ERYSIPELAS, HOOPING-COUGH, and many other complaints. It is also he very best Antiseptic. Highly recommended by the medical Faculty. To be had from every reputed Chemist and Druggist. Ask for Dr. KNORR'S ANTIPYRINE! Each Tin bears the inventor's signature, "Dr. KNORR" in red letters.
Supplies constantly on hand at the China Export, Import, and Bank Co.—Sole Agents for China. Beware of spurious imitations!
Hongkong, 20th May, 1888 [424

W. S. MARTEN,
ARTISTIC DECORATOR,
2, DUDDELL STREET,
HONGKONG.
Hongkong, 6th April, 1890. [33

NOTICE.

JEYE'S SANITARY COMPOUNDS COMPANY, LIMITED.

JEYE'S WOOD PRESERVER OR ANTISEPTIC PAINT.

THE Undersigned have this day been appointed SOLE AGENTS for the sale of these PERFECT DISINFECTANTS, and are prepared to supply quantities to suit purchasers, at Wholesale Prices. Extra Special terms for Shipping and large Orders.
Sir ROBERT RAWLINSON, C.B., C.E., Chief Sanitary Engineer, Local Government Board, London, says
"It is the best Disinfectant in use."
W. G. HUMPHREYS & Co.,
Bank Buildings.
Hongkong, 10th June, 1888. [92



Some Children Growing Too Fast

become listless, fretful, without energy, thin and weak. But you can fortify them and build them up, by the use of

SCOTT'S EMULSION

OF PURE COD LIVER OIL AND HYPOPHOSPHITES
Of Lime and Soda.

They will take it readily, for it is almost as palatable as milk, and three times as efficacious as plain Oil. And it should be remembered that AS A PREVENTIVE OR CURE OF COUGHS OR COLDS, IN BOTH THE OLD AND YOUNG, IT IS UNEQUALLED. *Avoid substitutions offered.* Sold by all Chemists.
SCOTT & BOWNE, LIMITED,
47 FARRINGDON ST., LONDON, E.C.
Sole Agents for Hongkong and China:
Messrs. A. S. WATSON & Co. (LIMITED),
Hongkong, 22nd December, 1888.

For Sale.

INTIMATION.

F. Blackhead & Co.,
SHIP-CHANDLERS, SAIL-MAKERS,
AND
PROVISION MERCHANTS,
NAVY CONTRACTORS,
AND
GENERAL COMMISSION AGENTS.
No. 11, Praya Central,
(Opposite Pedder's Wharf).

SOLE AGENTS for
RAHTJEN'S
GENUINE COMPOSITION
FOR
THE BOTTOMS OF IRON SHIPS.

HARTMANN'S GREY PAINT, specially manufactured for coating the inside of STEEL SHIPS.

SPECIALLY SELECTED,
EX. PRIME, PORK and BEEF in Barrels.
Also
AMERICAN PRIME SUGAR-CURED HAMS and BACON.

CHR. MOTZ & Co., BORDEAUX CLARETS.

CEMENT from the celebrated Factory of Hemmoor.

FLENSBURG STOCK BEER,
ENGINEERS' AND BLACKSMITHS' MACHINERY AND TOOLS.
EVERY KIND OF
SHIP'S STORES AND REQUISITES
ALWAYS IN STOCK
AT
REASONABLE PRICES.

ALL KINDS OF
COALS
SUPPLIED AT THE SHORTEST NOTICE.
Hongkong, 25th March, 1891. [112

JUST ARRIVED, FOR SALE.

THE New Stem Winder and Enameled Dial
WATERBURY WATCH.
SERIES I.—For Gentlemen, or large size.
SERIES L.—For Ladies', or small size.
Winds in less than a dozen turns; Jewelled, Dust-proof, Keyless, with all the latest improvements. A perfect and unrivalled timekeeper; reliable, durable and accurate, and also
$4.75 each.
SERIES E.—The "Good old favorite." The best form of the original Waterbury: offered at the reduced price of $3.70 each.
Orders from Out-ports to be accompanied by remittance for cost.
THE MITSUI BUSSAN KAISHIA,
Sole Agents in Japan, China, Corea, Hongkong & Macao.
No. 10, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.
Hongkong, 20th February, 1890 [1180

CHS. J. GAUPP & CO.,
CHRONOMETER, WATCH, and CLOCK-MAKERS, JEWELLERS, SILVER-SMITHS, and OPTICIANS.
CHARTS and BOOKS.
NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS.
Sole Agents for Louis Audemars' Watches; awarded the highest Prizes at every Exhibition; and for Voigtländer and Sohn's CELEBRATED OPERA GLASSES, MARINE GLASSES and SPYGLASSES.
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CARBOLINEUM AVENARIUS,
(REGISTERED).

AN ANTISEPTIC PAINT for the Preservation of Wood, Walls, Ropes and Ship's Tackle. May be applied to Beams, Floors, Wainscoting, Wooden Ornaments, Eaves, Roofs, Wooden Sheds, Farmers' and Gardeners' Implements, Carts, Posts, Fences, Stables, Gates, Bridges, Boats, and all Timber underground.
Effectually excludes all dampness from walls painted with it and entirely prevents the crumbling away and decay of both stone and bricks.
White ants do not touch wood painted with Carbolineum Avenarius.
Used during the last 14 years with the utmost success, as proved by numerous Testimonials from living authorities.
Sold in casks of about 450 lbs. net, Price 8 cents per lb.
For further particulars, apply to
SCHEELE & Co.,
Sole Agents,
No. 16, Stanley Street.
Hongkong, 2nd December, 1890. [44

FOR SALE.

THE Schooner
"MONTIARA,"
Length.....75 feet
Beam.....18 "
Depth of hold.....7½ "
Registered tonnage 75 tons.
(Owing to recent alterations the carrying capacity of the *Montiara* has been increased to about 120 tons, dead weight.)
The *Montiara* was built in Singapore, and is most solidly constructed of teak throughout, with iron-wood frames. She has recently been thoroughly overhauled under experienced European superintendence, fastened throughout with 7 inch galvanized spikes, and newly re-coppered. She is barcha-rigged with the best canvas sails. Draft of water 7 feet.
For further particulars apply to
R. FRASER-SMITH,
6, Pedder's Hill.
Hongkong, 9th April, 1890. [33

FOR SALE.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY, Published at the Office of the *Hongkong Telegraph*, is the best and most complete work of the kind ever published in the FAR EAST. The Directory contains all the latest and most reliable information concerning China, Japan and all the other Countries in the East.
PRICE$3.00
To be obtained from all Booksellers in China and Japan.
Hongkong, 23rd March, 1891.

Printed and Published by ROBERT FRASER-SMITH, No. 6, Pedder's Hill, in the city of Victoria, Hongkong.

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

N°. 2824. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1891. SIX DOLLARS PER QUARTER

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1891.

THE GAMBLING ABORTION.

THE latest published and half-a-dozen times amended *Gambling Ordinance* is one of the weakest specimens of legislative shreds and patches that has ever been offered to a very wearied and long suffering community. We have not been informed on whose shoulders lies the responsibility for piecing together this hotpotch of legal incongruities and flaming ignorance of the true position and actual requirements of this colony as to preventive legislation in regard to gambling, but whoever the official may happen to be, we are exceedingly sorry for the verdancy he displays and respectfully offer him our heart-felt sympathy. What he knows and what he doesn't know about gambling would doubtless fill a large-sized book; but surely before any man, no matter how technically clever in abstruse questions of legal procedure, attempts to make a special law seriously affecting the rights and liberties of an entire community, he ought to possess some actual practical knowledge of what he is trying to accomplish. The gentleman who drafted this Ordinance, and we say it in all seriousness and with due respect, only too evidently knows nothing whatever about the inner circles of social life in Hongkong; he ignores the fair and legitimate privilege of every citizen to a certain amount of license in his personal amusements; he wantonly attacks every branch and form of sport and pastime that are inseparable from a Briton's life all the world over, by making it a criminal offence to indulge in what has ever been held to be an unchallenged right; and winds up by proposing to invade the sanctity of our social institutions on grounds that are alike childish and absurd. And he is not even consistent in the work he has done so badly.

In the preamble of this precious Ordinance we are told that "it is expedient to consolidate and amend the law relating to gambling and common gaming houses and lotteries," and the reason why this is expedient is because the wording of a section of *Ordinance 13 of* 1888 has been considered rather ambiguous and has led to different decisions from the magisterial bench. And that is all. There has been no increase in common gambling in Hongkong for the past fifteen years outside the mushroom crop of so-called Chinese Clubs which have sprung up in all directions, to whose existence we have so frequently directed the attention of the Government and insisted on the supervision of the Police. It is true there has been wholesale gambling in the Share Market, causing wide-spread ruin throughout the colony; but the leading operators in that business and in the floating of bogus companies are men in high places, honored visitors to Government House, confidential chums of the Official Phalanx, philanthropists of the hybrid order, moralists whose notoriously immoral pecadilloes are winked at because they can act the lap-dog and *cavalier servente* as they can play lawn-tennis or golf—and they are untouched by the new *Gambling Ordinance*, because they are the privileged class in a British colony where, by an amusing fiction which deceives nobody, everybody is righteously supposed to be equal in the eye of the law.

The only *Gambling Ordinance* required here is one, and it could be clearly expressed in a few lines, to put a stop to the Chinese nuisance which, by the neglect of the Police, that is to say by the wholesale bribery of the Chinese element in the Force which is admitted to have existed, has led to all this trouble and palaver. Properly constituted Chinese Clubs, and we know half a dozen such in the colony in spite of the frothy declaration to the contrary of the well-meaning but exuberant and indiscreet Registrar-General, have just as much right to exist as the Hongkong Club or the Club Germania; its members have a perfect right to invite friends, and they can play cards, dominoes, or any other Chinese game of chance or skill—always excepting *fan-tan*, *pa-ts*, or any game where every player has not an equal chance, and there must be no banker and no commissions charged. And what harm can such clubs do either to public morality or to public interests? It is the dens where everybody could go into and gamble to their heart's content, where *fan-tan* was openly played and winked at by the police, that caused all the mischief, and it is these hot-beds of vice and these alone that wanted dealing with by special legislative enactment. Where was the necessity for interfering with properly constituted, well conducted institutions, against which no complaint had ever been made? What advantage to public morality will be gained if whist in the Hongkong Club at anything over ten-cent points is declared a criminal offence, if our German friends are debarred by law from indulging in chess or any other game of chance and skill for stakes exceeding the price of a bottle of soda-water, if the members of the Club Lusitania run the risk of imprisonment for playing ten-cent pool, or if the habitues of the City Club are in strict law habitual criminals for playing fifty cent poker? The whole thing is ridiculous and unworthy of the serious attention of sensible men. If there must be special laws for the Chinese, then let the Government go ahead and make them, carefully and fairly weighing the rights and privileges of institutions and individuals, but until some actual necessity arises, surely the Europeans in the colony can be left alone to enjoy their social amusements as they please, so long as they neither outrage public morality nor infringe the laws!

We shall return to this subject in our next issue, and deal with section 3 of the proposed Bill, which in its amended form is even a greater menace to the civil rights of the people than was the original draft. It is to be hoped that Governor DES VŒUX will see his way to summarily withdraw this most foolish Ordinance, as it can only lead to universal dissatisfaction without serving any useful purpose whatever.

"CHINA MAIL" CONSISTENCY.

WHAT a change was there, my brethren! When Governor BOWEN ruled in this colony his chiefest lap-dog and foot-stool—next to the kail-worm who then edited the *Daily Press*—was the third-class frump who represents the *China Mail*. Without any exception, BOWEN was about the biggest blackguard that ever tainted the atmosphere of Hongkong; the fact of his being a universal adorer of the female sex might perhaps have found extenuation to some extent in the acknowledged imperfections of his sex, but a man who couldn't see a petticoat on a broomstick without forgetting what he owed to his high official position, to his social responsibilities, to his gray hairs and to his manhood, was outside the pale of common decency, let alone the exalted rank he held in this colony as the accredited representative of Britain's Majesty. It is understood that "Sir GUSH" in his cups, when thoroughly warmed up by the six dollars per dozen claret that had been opened the day previously, was rather proud of his conquests in the courts of Venus—in his younger days BOWEN must have been a fair sample of the latter day Adonis—and heartily damned political flummery and everybody and everything connected with it. But he didn't mean that, as in his natural state he was the biggest and most offensive political crawler and parasite in the whole of the Colonial Service. That is a pretty large order, but it is the absolute truth, as his records in every colony in which he has served clearly show. During Sir GEORGE BOWEN's reign in Hongkong he kept himself in touch with the community chiefly by the amusing obsequiousness and kindly patronage of Mr. THOMAS JACKSON, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, that eminent financier being backed up in his charitable mission by our local contemporaries, the animated vegetable who occasionally shines refulgent as a public critic in the evening rag being an especial advocate of "Sir GUSH's" many virtues. The *Hongkong Telegraph* stood alone as the fearless critic of a high Government representative who stood self-confessed before the Hongkong public as a shallow and unscrupulous political impostor and a social fraud of the deepest dye, and we incurred a very great deal of odium thereby, principally from official sources, which meant very little. And the most obsequious and most abject followers of and toadies to Sir GEORGE BOWEN were the *Daily Press* and *China Mail*; according to these 'lights of Asia' the erotic old humbug couldn't do wrong, and when the saintly JACKSON by sheer weight of the Shanghai Bank influenced the community—with the honorable exceptions of Mr. P. RYRIE, Mr. A. MACIVER, and two or three others—and actually coerced Chief Justice Sir GEORGE PHILLIPPO, after that dignitary had absolutely refused to have anything to do with what he knew was a burlesque, into taking the chair at that never-to-be-forgotten farewell banquet, when BOWEN wept (crocodile's tears) on JACKSON's bosom, they were his Excellency's BOSWELLS. But times change! And now the *China Mail* editorially refers to LI HUNG-CHANG's effusive biographer as "a frothy charlatan." Consistency, thy name is not the bandicoot of our evening contemporary, who once rushed Sir JAW BONE and now runs him down.

THE GOVERNOR.

FOR some days past it has been an open secret that Sir W. DES VŒUX, on account of increasing ill health and acting on medical advice, had determined to leave Hongkong for good and to resign the governorship. His Excellency at one time hoped that a trip to and a short stay in Japan would brace up his failing strength sufficiently to enable him to serve out the remainder of his term of office, but unfortunately that hope has not been realised and he has resolved, wisely we think, to abandon, for the time being at least, all official cares and responsibilities and seek rest and tranquility in a climate more suitable to the infirmities to which it is understood he has been a victim for years past. Whatever our political views and differences may have been, and however much we deplore the unfortunate and untenable position taken up by Governor DES VŒUX on the Military Contribution "squeeze" as special pleader for Downing Street, we cannot but admire the sturdy and independent attitude he has invariably assumed on all public questions with which he has had to deal, and the willingness he has ever shown, excepting in this one bitter dispute, to listen to reason and to do all in his power, consistent with his obligations to the Colonial Office, to meet the views and study the best interests of the Hongkong community. Although not altogether free from prejudices, and admittedly somewhat inclined to autocratic methods of over-riding other people's opinions, he has worked hard and conscientiously and, notwithstanding his one fatal error, has fairly earned general popularity amongst all classes. Under brighter auspices Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX might have been a model ruler of Hongkong; but circumstances and the fates have been against him almost from the day of his arrival, and his departure, although regretted, will scarcely be felt as a political factor outside the inner circles of official-dom. It is stated that, accompanied by Lady DES VŒUX, whose well deserved popularity has never been exceeded by the wife of any previous governor, and his family, his Excellency will leave here early next month, and that probably Major-General DIGBY BARKER will temporarily assume the reins of Government, although this latter report can at present be only a matter of surmise. Under any circumstances the Governor and Lady DES VŒUX, wherever their future lots may be cast, can rest assured that they carry with them the goodwill and best wishes of the Hongkong community.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE French cruisers *Villars*, *Triomphante*, and *Inconstant* arrived on the 16th inst. from Tourane.

THERE were 308 deaths registered in the colony during March. Of these ten were Europeans, including one each from the Army and Navy.

REPORTS from Foochow are to the effect that influenza is still very prevalent amongst the natives there. Luckily its effects are now seldom fatal.

THE taking of the census of this colony, by a special order of the Governor in Council, has been postponed from the 30th April to the 20th May. Amen!

IT has been computed that all the gold in the world would go into a room 24 feet square by 16 feet high. We don't think the Punjom deposits could have been included in the estimate.

THE German gunboat *Wolf*, which left Shanghai the other week for Amoy, returned to Shanghai and is now in the Old Dock for repairs. On the way down she ran ashore on some rocks off the Barren Islands, and damaged her hull so badly on the port side that four plates will have to be renewed.

MR. E. W. MAITLAND, Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial Hospital, begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospital:—Man On Insurance Company, Limited, $50; Messrs. Abdoolally Ebrahim and Company, $25; Messrs F. Blackhead & Co., $25; H. L. Dennys, Esq., $25; and C. Ewens, Esq., $10.

IT may interest the authorities to know that an influential Chinese gentleman in Bangkok informed a contemporary the other day that he was convinced that the majority of the *Namoa* pirates were at that present moment in Bangkok. If they are, says the *Gazette*, it only shows their good sense. They are as safe there as in the centre of Africa.

MR. CARL HEINRICH W. WALLIS, of No 5 Wellington Street, has formally applied for a license to sell intoxicating liquors "as an adjunct to his business as restaurateur" at the address named. A special sessions of the Great Unpaid will be held on Tuesday the 28th inst. to decide the knotty question—whether or not another "pub" is required in the district of which Wellington Street is a centre.

A WHILE ago the French Government ceased to subsidise the "Havas" supply of telegrams to Tongkin, promising residents to increase the number of official "wires" to make up for it. From that time scarcely a word has been cabled from France to the Eastern Colonies, much to the general indignation. To make up for this one of the papers published a series of satirical bogus telegrams, such as "Sarah Bernhardt is demanding three millions from the Duchess d'Uzes, to form a corps of volunteers in Tongkin, of which she will take command." The "Brownie" of the Manila press gravely translated these "messages," and now, when he reads what the *Courrier d'Haiphong* says about him he will feel unwell. Meanwhile we are anxious to know how "Sarah" will take it when she hears!

AN extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Douglas Steamship Company, Limited was held at the Company's office at noon to-day (18th inst.), for the purpose of submitting for confirmation the five special resolutions relative to alterations in the Articles of Association, which were passed on the 28th ultimo by the shareholders then assembled at an extraordinary meeting. To-day there were present:—Messrs. T. E. Davies (Chairman); D. R. Sassoon, P. Ryrie and C. V. Holliday (consulting committee); S. S. Benjamin, R. K. Davis, R. R. Burder, J. H. Cox, D. Gillies, J. F. C. da Rosa, H. Crawford, J. Meier, and J. H. Lewis (Secretary). The special resolutions, which were published in full in this journal on the 28th ultimo, were put to the meeting *seriatim*, and unanimously confirmed.

THE *Sydney Bulletin* of March 21st has this paragraph:—"Mr. Fraser-Smith, the well-known editor of the *Hongkong Telegraph*, who was lately sent to gaol for an alleged libel, has just, it is cabled, been discharged from prison in a dying condition." Fraser-Smith is a man who has fought a good fight for many years in a Crown colony ruled by nepotism, and under a system which rendered a fair and unprejudiced trial an absolute impossibility." Our contemporary makes a slight mistake as to the charge for which the Editor of this journal was sent to gaol—it was for an alleged conspiracy, not a libel. Had it been the latter offence, the question of innocence or guilt could have been easily decided; but as it was, two men perfectly innocent of any crime were imprisoned, although there was not a scintilla of reliable evidence against them, and they had no effective remedy to set aside the most infamous decision that has ever been rendered in the local Supreme Court. We say nothing here about the sentence, nor do we propose, for reasons which will come out shortly, at the present moment entering into details; but there is no reason why we should not state that we hold in our hands a complete and thorough vindication of Mr. Ward and Mr. Fraser-Smith in the case referred to, and that the same will be submitted to the Hongkong Government with as little delay as possible. On February and we promised a thorough vindication, and that promise will be kept.

ON her last voyage to Vancouver the Canadian Pacific liner *Batavia*, Capt. Hill, went ashore on March 19th near Tongue Point on the Columbia river, but was towed off the following day without having sustained any damage.

A LETTER from the French Consul to the Governor, notifying the establishment in Saigon of the "Institut Microbiologique et de Vaccination," is published in the *Government Gazette* of Saturday last. We gave full particulars of this Pasteur's Institute several weeks ago.

FANCY the Duke of Cambridge doing police duty! Yet in Bangkok contemporary announces that H. E. Phya Sunsak, the Commander-in-Chief of the Siamese Army, had started for Korant and Eastern Laos, to suppress the bands of robbers with which those provinces are infested.

THE Foochow *Echo* hears that one of the many *cumshaws* the Viceroy brought to the Czarewitch was a "root figure"—a Foochow speciality—, fourteen inches high, and worth taels 1200. Great Scott! Our contemporary adds that such an enormous price for a root figure should have secured a work of art.

AT a confirmatory meeting of the shareholders of the Hongkong Marina, Limited, held at the Hongkong Hotel on the 16th inst., it was unanimously decided that the Company be voluntarily liquidated. The Chairman (Mr. Fraser-Smith), Mr. A. G. Gordon, and Mr. J. A. Barretto, were appointed liquidators.

MR. E. W. MAITLAND, Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial Hospital, begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the hospital:—Messrs. D. Sassoon, Sons & Co. $100; Messrs. J. J. dos Remedios & Co., $50; Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., $50; Messrs. Kruse & Co., $25; and Messrs. Dunn, Melbye & Co., $25.

AT the Police Court on the 16th inst. a Chinese boy, employed at the Marinburk Furniture Co.'s works, was charged with stealing a purse containing stamps, value $12, the property of Alex. Smith, foreman of the works, on the 15th. The complainant said he hung his coat up whilst at work, and, missing the purse from the pocket, gave information to the police. Prisoner admitted picking the purse up, and Mr. Wise, considering the case proved, sent him to gaol for seven days, and to receive a whipping of twelve strokes. Why the whipping, your Worship?

THE Hongkong Rifle Association competition for the Short Range Handicap Cup and Spoons was held on Saturday last. Some good shooting was made at 500 yards, but the rain spoilt the scores at 600 yards. Mr. C. Ford won the cup and 500 yards spoon, Col. Sergt. T. Boyd winning the 600 yards spoon. There were 15 competitors, and the best four scores are appended:—

	500 Yds.	600 Yds.	Total.	Fl'cap Points.	Aggregate.
Mr. C. Ford	35	19		scratch	50
Col. Sergt. T. Boyd	32	25		"	57
Lt. Haswell, R N.	28	29		4	57
Rev. C. J. Todd, R N.	29	28		5	57

BUSINESS on the Rialto was apparently an unknown quantity on the 16th inst., so a few of the leading members of the "Stockbrokers' Exchange" put their dignity in their pockets for a few minutes, and had some alleged fun. A dispute as to the speed of their respective rickshaw coolies led to a match between two members of that august body, the course being from the Club, round the Bank and back. The rivals took opposite courses, and, after a race which was most exciting to the old women who were nearly getting run over, the party with the bicycle-wheels, so to speak, won by a nose. The event led to a similar contest between another couple of go-betweens, round the Cricket Ground and back, and again the bicycle wheels won. But this isn't business, surely.

MRS. JAMES BROWN-POTTER, who is shortly expected in this colony, is said to be the youngest "Cleopatra" on the stage, and Madame Sara Bernhardt, who is forty-six, the oldest. We don't know Mrs. Potter's exact birthday, but we do know that she is slightly over seven, and we are looking forward to her "Cleopatra"—remembering the sensation she made by her most realistic impersonation of the character in New York—with as much impatience as the most enthusiastic bald-head in the front row of the stalls when a ballet is on the *tapis*. Mrs. Brown-Potter's company got into some trouble in Bombay owing to billing a show for Good Friday—they are apparently as moral and religious in the upper circles in Bombay as is the case with the elect of Hongkong—but the fault was not the lady's, and she came out of the hurly-burly triumphantly. We learn from an Indian correspondent that Mrs. Potter is supported by an excellent all-round company, so that Hongkong play-goers can confidently look forward to a series of high-class representations of the legitimate drama. Mr. Crofton and Miss Emily Blaine made a favorable impression here over a dozen years ago, and Mr. Kyrle Bellew has undoubted claims to be considered one of the best actors in his line on the English stage.

THERE would appear after all to be something substantial in the scheme of our fiery and untamed friend, Citizen George Francis Train, to run a line of steamers between Tacoma and Hongkong, *viâ* Japanese and Chinese ports. When George was over here last year he brought into play an eloquence that is probably unequalled on this side of the Styx to convince us that Tacoma was the coming port on the North Pacific and would smash up San Francisco and Vancouver as high as the pyramid of Cheops. We accepted these assurances with our customary suavity, but we thought Train was shooting very wildly all the same, and as a matter of fact, regarded his emphatic prophecies as the mere exuberance of a verbosity that we have never seen equalled. But it must now be admitted that there was method in the famous "crank's" madness. Recent advices from San Francisco indicate that a line of steamers between Tacoma and Hongkong is quite probable in the very near future. The San Francisco *Commercial News* of March 20th says:—"Mr. Marshall, representing the interests of Sir William Pearce, was in Victoria on the 13th inst., for the purpose of learning the inducements offered for the establishment of a line of steamships between Tacoma and Victoria, and Japan and China. The contract with the Canadian Pacific is ended, and it is the intention of Marshall's company to make a contract, if possible, for a service between Tacoma and Hongkong. He left for Tacoma and expects to make a successful deal." The inference we draw from this paragraph is that the owners of the *Parthia*, *Abyssinia*, and *Batavia* intend, if possible, to establish a new trade for these steamers after the Hongkong-Vancouver route has been monopolised by the three "Empresses." And there may be millions in it.

THE *Siam Gazette* states that Prince Damrong, Minister of Education, will start next month for St. Petersburg. He is the bearer of the highest Siamese order to the Emperor of Russia. On his way home he intends to visit England with a view of studying the system of education there.

H. E. CHANG CHIH-TUNG is still pursuing his progressive policy. The *Peking Gazette* of the 13th inst. sets forth a petition by him asking that the Provincial Examiner of Hupeh be allowed to proceed by steamer to Chinchow and Ichang to conduct the examinations. The Emperor granted the request.

WITH tears in their eyes our landlords lifted up their joint and several voices and cried: "He damned us for the sewage and now he sues us for the damage." And thereby hangs an interesting little tale which we will relate one of these days, for the edification of the Sanitary Board and the benefit of the Hongkong public.

THE Russian man-of-war *Koreyets*, which arrived in Shanghai on the 13th inst., collided with the Kiutoan Lightship that morning, the lightship losing her bowsprit and being driven from her moorings. The man-of-war had one of her boats and some of her rails smashed, and two of the blades were broken off one of her propellers.

MR. E. W. MAITLAND, Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial Hospital, begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the hospital:—Messrs. Gaupp and Co., $25; Messrs Cawasjee Pallanjee and Co., $25; Hugh McCallum, Esq., $25; C. Palmer, Esq., $20; A. Turner, Esq., $10; J. M. Armstrong, Esq., $10.

A CORRESPONDENT writes—"The difference between a thoroughly sound well written newspaper with some backbone, and a wretched dishclout was never better contrasted than by the *Telegraph* and *China Mail* of Saturday night last. The former was worthy of the *Hongkong Telegraph* in its best days, the latter was fit to wrap fried fish, and smelled strongly of "Brownie" —and mud." Thanks.

A SYDNEY paper says that "one by one the men who during the various recent Australian land-booms made fortunes by commissions, but elected to job all the same, are becoming insolvent." Hongkong experiences of "booms" in shares and stocks and fabulous gold-mines have invariably tended in the same direction; the brokers were never satisfied with the liberal commissions they earned but must needs "job" as well, and now most of them are dead-brokers. History repeats itself.

"Q.E.D." asks us whether the military authorities have the right to transport through the city large numbers of loaded shrapnell shells from the magazine at East Point to Belcher's fort at West Point? It is hard to say exactly what the military gang have a right to do here—they seem to run this place just as they please; but there can be no doubt that the Police have it in their power to prevent coolies humping loaded shells through the streets in the daytime, on the grounds that were one of them to explode it would not only kill a number of people but also bring destroy a great deal of house property as well. In any other place but Hongkong the transportation of shot and shell would be effected by means of boats, as far as possible. But this is Hongkong.

IN answer to a correspondent, who wants to know far more than we can tell him, we have been informed that an attempt was made to get up a "Sky" Race-meeting independently of the Polo Club; but as the self-appointed promoters wished to confine the right of entry to members of the Executive and Legislative Councils and Sanitary Board, or something equally idiotic, and to limit riding qualifications to members and visitors of the Ladies' Lawn Tennis Club, the thing collapsed. But have patience, gentle sportsmen, only for a short time longer; we intend to throw a little *mehr licht* on this very imperfectly understood sporting question, which has so vexed the moral susceptibilities of a number of men whose immoral tendencies are notorious, and that intention will be carried out very soon. In view of the proposed new *Gambling Ordinance* becoming law at no far distant date, a calamity which for the sake of the colony at large it is hoped may be avoided, there are various important questions connected with local racing and sport generally which will soon require firm and serious handling. Meanwhile there is nothing lost by waiting.

WHEELOCK & Co.'s Freight Market Report dated Shanghai, 17th April, says:—The fortnight under review is devoid of interest, and very little cargo is offering for London. Coastwise—from Wuhu to Whampoa—demand has somewhat slackened, charterers having almost filled their requirements for the present. From Shanghai to Whampoa—enquiries for tonnage are now being made for, a settlement is reported at quotations below. From Nagasaki to Shanghai.—Owing to the scarcity of tonnage a further advance in freights has to be noted, without however leading to business. For London *vid* usual ports of call and Suez Canal:—The O. S. S. Co. *Titan* left on the 15th instant, and the berth is now occupied by the same Company's steamer *Achilles* circulated for despatch on the 22nd *idem*. For New York, *via* usual ports of call and Suez Canal:—The s.s. *Strathleven* is due from Japan on the 20th instant and will and remain but a short time, as all her space has been taken up. There is an enquiry for further tonnage, but at the present rates of freight owners prefer seeking other employment. Departure for London *via* usual ports of call and Suez Canal:—O. S. S. Co. steamship *Titan via* Swatow on 15th inst. Departure for New York *via* Suez Canal;—Nil. Departure for Iloilo:—British barque *Highlands* on 4th instant. Departure for San Francisco:—British ship *John E. Sayre* on 11th instant. Quotations are:—Nagasaki to Shanghai, $1.50 per ton of coal nett, for both steamers and sailing vessels. Shanghai to London, P. and O. S. N. Co. 35*s.* per ton, 40*s.* for the Continent. Shanghai to London, O. S. S. Co. 32*s.* 6*d.* per ton, 42*s.* 6*d.* for New York. Shanghai to New York, 40*s.* per ton for braid and general cargo. Newchwang to Amoy, 26 cents per picul, quick dispatch. Newchwang to Swatow, 25 cents per picul, quick dispatch. Newchwang to Whampoa, 30 cents per picul, quick dispatch. Wuhu to Whampoa, 18 cands. per picul, quick dispatch. Chefoo to Amoy, 20 cents per picul, quick dispatch. Settlements during the fortnight:—*Macduff*, British steamer, 1,882 tons register, Wuhu to Whampoa, 18 cands. per picul, 13 lay days. *Bentarig*, British steamer, 1,453 tons register, Wuhu to Whampoa, 18½ cands. per picul, 13 lay days. *Lombardy*, British steamer, 1,571 tons register, Shanghai to Whampoa, 13/4 cands. per picul, 13 lay days. *Rewa*, British barque, 454 tons register, Newchwang to Amoy 25 cents per picul, 18 lay days. Disengaged vessel in port:—American barque *St. James*, 1,488 tons register.

MR. E. W. MAITLAND, Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial Hospital, begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the hospital:—Messrs. Russell & Co., $100; the Hon. Samuel Brown, $25; F. A. Gomes, Esq., $25; Commodore E. J. Church, R.N., $20.

THE last *Baltimore American* to hand contains an interesting description of the execution at Kowloon City about a year ago, contributed by an eye-witness, "Mr. J. Crawford Lyon." It is a coincidence, doubtless, that he should have used precisely the same words as we did in our account of the affair, but we rather fancy that this globe-trotting "eye-witness" is very well named.

LAST Saturday evening a small and very representative assembly of gentlemen interested in the "manly art" met in the Kowloon Hotel, to witness a couple of sparring contests promoted by Mr. C. Robinson, a prominent amateur wielder of the cestus. The first item on the programme was a four-round contest between Messrs. Beckett and Thomas, for a silver cup. Both men scaled about 11st. 4lb., and were in good condition, and hard knocks were the order of the hour. Beckett forced the fighting during the first three rounds, by which time he was boxed to a standstill. When the last round was commenced Thomas opened out with a heavy blow on the "mark," which tied his opponent in a knot, and left him unable to finish the round.—The second event was a six-round contest, for a silver cup, between an Unknown and a young amateur named Lunney. Both men scaled about 9st. 7lb., and an exhibition of skill was witnessed such as has rarely been equalled among local amateurs. The Unknown had a terribly quick right, and was extremely nimble on his feet, whilst Lunney was a thoroughly good all-round man. A very warm series of rounds were witnessed, and there was very little between the men when time was called and Lunney adjudged—with some dissentients—the victor. The evening wound up with a short exhibition by Robinson and Benj. Taylor, a local veteran, the former scoring pretty heavily. At the conclusion a well-known patron of sport presented the prizes, which included a handsome "consolation" for the Unknown. The very satisfactory and orderly arrangements did credit to the organiser, who will probably be induced to promote other competitions before long.

OUR regimental contemporary publishes the following extracts from an article on "Our Highlanders" by an Army Chaplain:—"During the siege of Quebec, the French had planted sentries along the river to challenge all who approached. During the night attack, which ended in the capture of the town, the first boat with English troops was observed and challenged. "*Qui vive?*" A moment's hesitation and all would have been lost. An officer of Fraser's Highlanders who had served in Holland and knew the watch-word, at once replied, "*La France.*" The second part of the challenge was given and answered satisfactorily. The sentinel became troublesomely inquisitive. "*A quel regiment appartenez vous?*"—"*Un regiment de la Reine.*" It was fortunate that the Captain knew that a regiment of that name was serving in Quebec. The sentinel, satisfied with these replies, allowed all the boats to pass without further challenge: he thought it was an expected convoy with provisions, and no time was lost when the magic word "*passe*" was heard. The three sentries took it for granted that all was right: there was only one who had any suspicion. Struck with the silence on board the boats, he rushed down to the water's edge and called, "*Pourquoi est ce que vous ne parlez pas haut?*" The suspicion was at once disarmed by the officer replying in a subdued tone, "*Tais toi on nous entendue.*" That cunning Highlander had not studied French for nothing—it gained for the British Quebec. [If "the cunning Highlander's" French was as stated in the foregoing account, it could not possibly have deceived a *China Mail* reporter, or our office goat—far less a French soldier, who must have known something of his own language.—Ed., *H. K. T.*]

"BROWNIE" up to the neck in congenial slush as usual. "This hydra-headed impersonality" in his Saturday's chatter, incidentally referring to the new *Gambling Ordinance*, says that he has "heard from trustworthy sources that many of the best owners on the Home Turf never bet." Who told "Brownie" that? Who are the "trustworthy sources?" "Brownie" is an ignorant ass, and the "trustworthy sources," assuming that they have an existence outside the gutter-snipe's too vivid imagination, are—well, they ought to leave the sacred ranks of the Hongkong Brokers, where lies are never told, and go post haste to join the Salvation Army or the Holy Romans, with whom a chapter of lying is rather a recommendation than otherwise. In the whole history of the modern British turf only one prominent owner of race-horses has been free from the doubtful vice of backing his own colours. That man was the late Viscount Falmouth, one of the best and most successful turfites the present generation has known. If "Brownie," or his "trustworthy sources," can tell us a single one of the other "best owners," we shall be glad to receive details. Lord Falmouth did not generally bet, he had no occasion to, he was in the happy position of a man who could thoroughly enjoy the sport of kings without indulging in the excitement of demons; and we know that he loved and enjoyed racing to the end of his days. But his was a most exceptional case, and yet he once made a bet, a famous bet that has become historical in turf lore. In the autumn of 1862 Lord Falmouth had a two-year old filly named Queen Bertha in the charge of John Scott, the famed Wizard of the North, and those 'in the know' thought the filly had a rattling good chance to win the Oaks. The noble owner was not sanguine, or he pretended not to be, and when Mrs. Scott, the wife of the great trainer, assured him that the filly would win the great fillies' race of the year, he made the first and last bet of his life. Viscount Falmouth was very much like George Washington, but built in somewhat different lines; at all events he bet Mrs. Scott the large sum of sixpence that Queen Bertha would not win the Oaks. He had long odds in his favor when the bet was made, but Mrs. Scott's judgment was verified, and the gallant daughter of Kingston, in the skilful hands of Tom Aldcroft, won cleverly from Marigold (afterwards the dam of Doncaster, winner of the Derby for Jamie Merry in 1873) Vivid and seventeen other competitors. And the gratified owner paid his bet with a new sixpence, handsomely encrusted with diamonds. That was said to be the only bet Lord Falmouth ever made, but we doubt it very much, notwithstanding the very significant fact that he seldom entered his horses for handicaps. But if our long-eared friend "Brownie," and his "trustworthy sources," will accept our challenge and publish the names of "the best owners on the Home Turf who never bet," we venture to say that we shall, as we have done before, write them down to the public satisfaction as pretentious and ignorant asses.

H. G. BROWN AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

The second ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the above Company was held at the Hongkong Hotel at noon to-day (April 18th). There were present:—Messrs. C. S. Sharp (Chairman), B. Layton, H. L. Dalrymple, C. S. Barff, E. Solomon and L. Hallward (Secretary).

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, the report and accounts have now been in your hands some days, and with your permission we may take them as read. These have purposely been made as full as possible and leave but little to be said to supplement the information given therein. You will notice that we have now written off the balance of cost of the *Sofid*, which was lost at the end of 1889; we recovered but little from the wreck and have credited to stock of stores the small amount represented by value of the salvage. The business of the Company continues in a flourishing state, and we are hopeful of seeing shortly some renewal of activity in the timber market in China, which may enable us to considerably increase our turn over, which was disappointingly small last year. The contracts in hand will keep the saw-mill at Laguimanoc in full work well into October next. I may say we have new enquiries from some shareholders as to the possibility of declaring interim dividends. The Company's Articles of Association certainly give power to do so, and we shall endeavour to make arrangements to give effect to the expression of opinion on this head should the position of the Company seem to warrant such a course at the end of the present half-year. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be very happy to answer any questions shareholders may wish to ask. —There being no questions the Chairman proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Solomon seconded, and the motion on being put was carried unanimously.

Mr. Solomon proposed the re-election of Messrs. Dalrymple, Sassoon and Layton as the consulting committee.

Mr. Barff seconded, and it was carried.

Mr. Barff proposed the re-election of Mr. Fullarton Henderson as auditor.

Mr. Solomon seconded, and it was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman said that concluded the business of the meeting, and having announced that dividend warrants would be ready on Tuesday morning the meeting closed.

THE AFFRAY AT THE COSMOPOLITAN DOCK.

At the Magistracy this afternoon (17th inst.), To Sin, comprador, and Wo Fat, fitter, were charged with unlawfully wounding U Shang, (who has since died) and others at the Cosmopolitan Dock on the 4th March last.

Mr. Caldwell prosecuted and Mr. Pollock, barrister-at-law, appeared for the first defendant.

The following additional evidence was taken.

Dr. J. A. Lowson, assistant superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital, in answer to Mr. Caldwell, said:—U Shang had a serious wound, extending from the forehead to immediately behind the right ear. There was much bleeding, and also from another small wound in the centre of the forehead. It was an incised wound and might have been inflicted by a sharp weapon. It might have been inflicted by a Chinese sword. The blow on the top of the head was similar, but lighter. The wound was sewn up. Another man admitted, Leung A Fat, was also wounded. He had a severe wound behind the left ear, extending three inches towards the neck. There was also an incised wound just below the left elbow, and a slight wound on the left thumb and finger. The tip of the middle finger was gone. The wounds might have been inflicted by a similar instrument as that used upon the first-named. The wounds were sewn up. U Shang was admitted on the 4th March; Leung A Fat was also admitted on the 4th and discharged on the 14th March.

Cross-examined—The wound on the man U Shang could not have been inflicted by an iron bar.

Mr. Henry Smith, superintendent of the Cosmopolitan Dock, and C. F. Pendham, foreman engineer of the Dock, testified as to the first defendant's good character, which closed the evidence.

Mr. Wise said he did not think there was anything against the second defendant.

Mr. Caldwell said he did not see there was, and the accused was discharged.

Mr. Wise said he meant to commit the case against the first defendant for trial at the Supreme Court.

Mr. Pollock submitted that the evidence based upon the story of some of the witnesses was not sufficient to justify his Worship in committing the case for trial. Evidence for the defendant had been heard, and it was a most unlikely thing that being the respectable man he was, employed in the Dock Company's service for twelve years as he had been, that he should have armed himself with two knives and deliberately stabbed the complainant or anyone else, all because of a dispute over four cents due in a gambling row. He submitted his client had no motive in doing as alleged and asked for his discharge.

His Worship said he had the direct evidence of two witnesses who had seen the defendant armed with knives and cutting right and left, and he thought it better to let a jury decide the case.

Mr. Caldwell said the defendant had been out on bail, but as the complainant had since died, he would ask that the bail be increased.

His Worship allowed bail in two sureties of $2,500 each.

In answer to Mr. Caldwell, his Worship said the plaintiff having died, the case amounted to murder and the Police would now prosecute. He, as Coroner, and a jury would view the body to-morrow afternoon, and he would then adjourn till some day next week when the inquiry as to the cause of death would be resumed.

WHOLESALE EXECUTIONS AT KOWLOON CITY.

NINETEEN PIRATES DECAPITATED.

The long-expected sometimes happens, as Homer sometimes nods, and in view of the many disappointing rumours there have been lately as to the date of the holocaust which was looked for in Kowloon City it is perhaps excusable that we were led to incorrectly state, in last night's (17th inst.) issue, that it had been again postponed. The lateness of its occurrence alone prevented us from giving the full description so dear to the morbid public an hour afterwards. Our special horrors-monger sends the following account of the scene:—

Yesterday afternoon will be a memorable one in Kowloon City as a day of blood. For the past few weeks detectives, reporters, and "sight-seers" have been daily flocking over to that Dirty Hollow, in the hope that they would witness the fulfilment of the capital sentence passed by the tribunal at Canton on a batch of men for participating in the *Namoa* and other piracies. The word went round yesterday morning that "it" was to be on Saturday afternoon, on the authority of the Grand Panjandrum himself—hence the mistake in the *Telegraph* last night. But in the afternoon a brief scrawl from a reliable friend on the spot stated that before night the men would probably have arrived and been despatched, and I at once left for the scene. Appearances were certainly not promising when I arrived; the ubiquitous pig was alternately wallowing and scratching all over the beach; a *lekin* guard, with his firelock and umbrella, was the only representative of the law's embodiment; the walls were deserted, save by a damsel whom a frivolous friend frightened away by addressing in the impassioned language of Romeo; and altogether it looked as if we should draw blank. A score or so of foreigners—brokers and members of the Imperial Maritime Customs—were among the disappointed—in fact they were the only ones interested, for the natives, young or old, evinced no more interest or expectancy than if capital punishment were unheard of. Under the circumstances there was no resource but to wait, and the squalid Monte Carlo reaped a fairly good harvest during the next hour or so. My frivolous companion—having method in his madness—had just worked off a bad dollar on an unlucky number, much to my admiration, when the boom of a distant gun was heard. Hastily snatching up our own and several other people's money, I, the Plunger, and the majority of the speculators hastened to the beach, whence we could see three large gunboats steaming into the bay in single file. The excitement was revived, inquiries from Chinese with totally blank minds elicited the information that "*Ket ko*"—several—heads were to fall, but it might be two or it might be twenty-five. A couple of men sat on an embrasure of the wall, beating a gong and cymbals to welcome the approaching Mightinesses, and as the vessels anchored a few hundred yards off irregular salvoes were fired, and answered by sounds as of burst paper-bags from inside the walls. The appearance of the place began to brighten up; a few banners, bearing hieroglyphics of mystic import, were planted on the walls; and two or three hundred "braves," with percussion muskets, red banners, and no officers, streamed out of the city and meandered aimlessly along the beach right up to the boundary between British and Chinese Kowloon. A less unlikely place for execution could hardly have been selected. The broken ground was liberally heaped with foul matter of all kinds, and the flies rose in clouds as the soldiers and spectators took up their points of vantage. Five o'clock came and went; rain began to fall thinly, the light waned apace, and still the curtain did not rise on the tragedy.

At length, about 5.30, the stream of messengers between the Yamên and the ships were seen returning, followed by a high official dressed in red, riding on a venerable pony, and attended by a body of heralds and guards. The soldiers on the beach began to clear a space in Aceldama, and my comrade and myself clambered on to a sort of mud-and-pebble shanty which afforded a central view of the clearing. As the procession advanced along the somewhat distant pier we could see a crowd of boats putting off from two of the gun-vessels and rowing quickly towards us. As they were beached the dozen soldiers in each hauled out one or two pitiable-looking objects, whom we could see, even through the thick dirt which coated their faces, were grey with terror. Each had his hands bound behind him, a chain round his neck, a sort of pennant stuck in his queue—presumably setting out the nature of the crime alleged to have been committed by him; and a wooden tally, with more writing on it (a means of identification, I was told) was tied to his pig-tail. All but one of the nineteen could walk, and although they were said to have had opium given them they seemed fully alive to their position. The man who could not walk was brought ashore squatting in a big basket, and was tumbled out in a line with his eighteen fellow-victims. He seemed to be in a state of collapse, for on being set on his knees he at once keeled over on his face, and, being unable to regain his equilibrium on account of his hands being tied, remained grovelling until lifted for the fatal stroke. As the long line of victims was being arranged, which was done amid much vociferation on the part of the masters of the ceremonies, the mounted official and his suite of attendants drew up at one end, and the excitement grew intense. Nineteen men knelt in a line in front of us, taking their last look at the earth which was so soon to receive them, and the fatal moment approached. The men who had been getting the condemned in position retired, leaving a long clear space occupied only by the score of prostrate wretches, a couple of paces apart. An excited individual, whose turban proclaimed him a native of Fukhien, advanced to one end of the death line, carrying a heavy iron sword. Standing over the first man, the executioner lifted the rude weapon high above his head, there was a flash, a slicing sound, and the head fell with a thud on the scanty turf. At the same moment the assistant executioner, who had hold of the man's shoulders whilst the stroke was made, pushed the trunk forward on to the head, leaving visible only the quivering wound, from which a torrent of blood spurted a foot distant. Not a quiver was seen, nor a cry heard; if there was it was drowned by the wailing blast blown by the "heralds." Stepping over the body, the executioner advanced to the second victim, who had witnessed, with agonised gaze, the fate of his neighbor. I never realised before what force there was in the Gilbertian couplet:—

> "Awaiting the sensation of a short sharp shock,
> From a cheap and chippy chopper on a big black block."

Number two hadn't much time to think of that, though, for in ten seconds more "the sabre true, cut cleanly through; his cervical vertebræ." And so the sanguinary work went on; a moment's grace whilst the pennant in each queue was plucked out and thrown down in front, the hair coiled up to leave the neck bare, and, with unvarying regularity, the "short sharp shock" was given until the prostrate wretch was reached, the fourth in the line. He was jerked up by his scanty queue, which seemed to us to be pulled out by the roots, for again he fell forward, evoking a loud curse from the executioner. The delay was but momentary; the end was the same. On and on went the butcher, performing his dreadful work so efficiently that the scene almost lost its horror. My friend, erstwhile Romeo, was sufficiently self-possessed to follow each blow with sincere plaudits; he forgot that a life was being sacrificed in admiration of the dexterity with which it was done, and alternated his *sotto voce* exclamations of "good shot," "well hit" with apt quotations from Shakespeare. Especial interest was centred in the twelfth man, a good-looking, elderly individual whose full beard and well-shaped features proclaimed the admixture of western blood in some degree. Who he was, or what he had done, I did not gather. His decapitation, though sufficient for the purpose, was scarcely complete, the neck being not quite severed, and consequently the head did not disappear beneath the body as in the other cases. The blood-spout which immediately obscured the features, however, prevented any observation of the expression being made. Number sixteen was an abject-looking old Celestial, whose death was evidently not long anticipated. Seventeen was bungled slightly, and Eighteen was even less fortunate, the headsman having to *hack* the flesh to sever the head, which, as in the other case, was left uncovered, and rolled, with glazed eyes and quivering muscle, —in plain view. A fresh weapon was called for, and a Japanese sword selected from the two or three brought by an attendant. With this the final stroke was given, but the arm of the law was weakened, and the body fell over against the one next to it. Just as the tale was completed the "heralds" changed their wailing monotone to a long shrill blast, and the soldiers, turning to the water, discharged their rifles in irregular volleys. The gunboats replied, and the officials at once left the spot. Not so the crowd. We Europeans had to cross the line of corpses before we could do so, and even "Romeo" was in a hurry to leave. The Chinese spectators had no such scruples; they strolled about, examining the wooden tags on which the names of the delinquents were written, joking and chatting as they did so. Once I was through though, I hastened after the group of officials, whom I found near the gates. On the way I overtook the executioner, whose swords his attendants were carrying. His shoes were red with blood, and a great gout had splashed his cheek. He seemed drunk with excitement, and in answer to my inquiry if he would sell "the" sword, shouted out something which raised a laugh among his followers, and then demanded $75. Whilst still bargaining we reached the gaudy chairs in which the principal officials were taking their seats. The Cathayan Ketch stopped a little distance away from the rider on the pony, and, sinking on one knee twice, cried out at the top of his voice, as though asking "Have I not done well?" The mandarin nodded, and went on, and a few minutes later one of the gunboats was away, conveying him to Canton. The bodies were still lying on the beach this morning, but the heads will be preserved by the officials at Kowloon as proofs of the execution of the sentence.

Thirteen of the nineteen victims belonged to a batch of thirty recently arrested at Macao on suspicion of being connected with the *Namoa* piracy. Four of them had been previously discharged by the Hongkong authorities, when arrested on the same charge. Another was handed over by the Government to the Chinese authorities, having been arrested by Inspector Stanton in First Street. Two others were alleged pirates whose headquarters were at Shau-ki-wan, whilst another couple were brothers, and had been arrested in connection with a projected piracy on the steamer *Soochow*, last year. The old fellow with the full beard had confessed to being concerned in the piracy of the *Greyhound*, and turned informer, by which means seven of the crews of the junks which took off the pirates from the *Namoa* were arrested, besides the man who was supposed to have shot Captain Pocock. It was found—or said to be found—that the venerable informer had supplied funds to the pirates, and he found, as "Christopher Kirkland" puts it, that "they who vault unbidden into the seat of Justice shall suffer by the sword they have wielded without authority." The other six had been convicted of various offences in Chinese territory.

FOOCHOW SPRING RACES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Stewards:—H. Baker, Esq.; W. P. Galton, Esq.; A. V. Gibb, Esq.; E. Ohlmer, Esq.; J. C. Oswald, Esq.; C. B. Rickett, Esq.; G. Siemssen, Esq. Secretary:—J. C. Oswald, Esq. Starter:—W. P. Galton, Esq. Judge:—E. Ohlmer, Esq. Clerk of the Course:—G. Siemssen, Esq.

FIRST DAY,—TUESDAY, 7TH APRIL.

The Foochow Spring Meeting commenced this afternoon, the weather being perfect, and the course in capital condition, although not very fast. As Amoy was well represented both in ponies and jockeys, more interest than usual was taken in the races by all, and the Foochow "Sports," evidently with the intention of trying to beat such Amoy ponies as Duncraggan, Dunoon, and Cobweb, sent to Hongkong and secured Enchanter and Flight, but owing to the very muddy track, about two weeks before the races both these ponies were placed *hors de combat*, the former not starting at all during the meeting. Foochow owners were also unfortunate in having their last year's crack griffin Monterey lame, whilst Amoy had to do without Cobweb; if all these ponies had been able to start the racing would have no doubt been more interesting, but as it was, the meeting was a most enjoyable one and some good sport was witnessed. Mr. Boyd carried all before him, his ponies starting eight times and securing five wins, two seconds, and one third, Colonel Vans-Wilton being next with three wins; Mr. Camera and Captain Jack registering two each.

The ball was set a-rolling by eight sprinters coming out for the April Stakes, which fell to Dunoon, late Unicorn, a cast-off of Mr. Sassoon's that ran well in Hongkong when dead lame. This pony has greatly improved since last seen in public, and although he went for two races each day here, he did not show the signs of lameness that were so palpable in Hongkong. The Coast Stakes proved rather an easy win for Mainbrace, but Ploughboy and Blitz ran well and were both close up at the finish. The Amoy Cup looked like a certainty for Senegal until the last quarter, when Bravo came along with a grand rush and collared him on the post, thus securing Mr. Bartleet his maiden win. Mr. Boyd landed Dunoon an easy winner in the Yuenfoo Stakes, and the Racing Stakes fell to Blitz, who was very judiciously ridden by Mr. Oswald, but if Bravo had kept more with his ponies in this latter event the result would have been different. Duncraggan had an easy win in the Nantai Stakes, which brought Amoy's victories up to four for the day.

Details are appended:—

The APRIL STAKES of $5 each, with $50 added; for all China Ponies; weight as per scale. Half-a-mile.

Mr. Boyd's ro. Dunoon (late Unicorn) 11st. 11lb. Mr. Boyd 1
Mr. Richam's gr. Titmouse, 10st. 6lb. Mr. Greaves 2
Mr. R. Ramsay's wh. Yarrum, 10st. 12st. Mr. Sundius 3
Captain Jack's br. Serenade, 11st. 1st. Mr. Jenkins 0
Mr. Westlin's gr. Lansdown, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Gilmour 0
Captain Hope's gr. Wild Wood, 11st. 1lb. Mr. Siemssen 0
Mr. Belmore's gr. Witchcraft 11st. 1lb. Mr. Marshall 0
Mr. Camera's gr. Yama, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Oswald 0

Serenade caused considerable delay at the start, but after a couple of futile attempts, the eight competitors got away to a rather straggling start, Yarrum, Dunoon, and Watchcraft showing the way for the first furlong. Yarrum then forged ahead, Witchcraft dropping back and making room for Titmouse, who was going very strong. At the quarter-mile post Dunoon challenged the leader and racing down the straight attended by Titmouse, won a good race by half-a-length, with Yarrum close up for third place. At the winning post Serenade disposed of his jockey, who luckily escaped unhurt. Time, 61½ sec.

The COAST STAKES of $5 each, with $50 added; for Foochow and Amoy subscription ponies; weights as per scale. One mile.

Mr. J. Gilpin Jr.'s b. Mainbrace, 11st. 4lb. Mr. Siemssen 1
Mr. Ramsay's gr. Ploughboy, 10st. 9lb. Mr. Greaves 2
Mr. Camera's gr. Blitz, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Oswald 3
Mr. Westlin's gr. Lansdown, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Sundius 0
Mr. Ramsay's gr. Haymaker, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Jenkins 0

Senegal was most fancied and at once took the lead by several lengths from Flight, Uplands and Bravo falling a long way behind. These positions were not changed until passing the mile post the last time round, when Bravo was sent along, and answering very gamely he soon left Uplands behind, passed Flight, and challenged Senegal opposite the Stand, winning a good race by half-a-length. Time 3.32.

The YUENFOO STAKES of $10 each; for all China Ponies; weights as per scale; winners at this meeting 7lbs. extra. Seven Furlongs.

Mr. Boyd's ro. Dunoon, 11st. 8lb. (incl. 7lb. ex.) Mr. Boyd 1
Captain Jack's br. Serenade 11st. 1lb. Mr. Marshall 2
Mr. Richam's gr. Titmouse 10st. 6lb. Mr. Greaves 3
Captain Hope's gr. Wild Wood 11st. 1lb. Mr. Siemssen 0
Mr. Belmore's gr. Witchcraft 11st. 1lb. Mr. Jenkins 0

Dunoon, notwithstanding a 7lb. penalty, was most fancied. Serenade jumped away with the lead and took his field along at a rattling pace, but when Dunoon came up in the last quarter the handsome brown was about finished, but he gamely struggled on to the end and only lost by a short length, with Titmouse a good third. The official time was given by 1.57, but many independent watches made it 1.51, which seems nearer the mark.

The HACK STAKES of $10 each with $10 added for each starter. For all Ponies not otherwise entered except for the Welter Plate. Seven pounds over weight for inches. Ponies that have never won a race 7 lbs. allowance. Riders who have never won a race allowed 7 lbs. Half-a-mile.

Colonel Vans-Wilton's gr. Begorra, Mr. Bartleet 1
Mr. Dizzy's gr. Wild Hawk, ... Mr. Ballock 2
Captain Hope's br. Newstead, ... Mr. Jenkins 0

A very easy win for Begorra; Newstead distanced. Time, 1.16½.

The RACING STAKES of $5 each with $50 added for the first and $25 for the second pony. For Foochow and Amoy Subscription Ponies; weights as per scale; winners at this meeting 7 lbs. extra. One mile and a-half.

Mr. Camera's gr. Blitz, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Oswald 1
Colonel Vans-Wilton's wh. Bravo, 15st. 5lb. Mr. Bartleet 2
Mr. de San Domingo's br. Uplands, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Sundius 3
Mr. Ramsay's gr. Haymaker, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Greaves 0
Dr. Gardener's gr. Fritz, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Boyd 0

Blitz got away with the lead, Haymaker and Uplands lying next, and Bravo a long way behind. After a mile and a quarter had been got over Bravo's jockey seemed to realize the fact that he had to catch Blitz if he meant winning, and so he sent the Colonel's white along, but although the pony came gamely, the effort was too late, and Mr. Oswald secured a well ridden race by a length; bad third. Time, 3.30.

The NANTAI STAKES of $10 each and/or divided 70 per cent., 20 per cent., and 10 per cent. to first, second and third pony. A forced entry for all Ponies entered at this meeting, except those entered for the Hack Stakes and/or Welter Plate only; weights as per scale. One mile and a quarter.

Mr. Boyd's d. Duncraggan, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Boyd 1
Mr. Ramsay's gr. Ploughboy, 10st. 9lb. Mr. Greaves 2
Mr. J. Gilpin Jr.'s b. Mainbrace, 11st. 4lb. Mr. Marshall 3
Mr. Camera's gr. Yama, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Oswald 0

There were only four starters for this event and Duncraggan was a hot favorite, although Yama was expected to be well up at the finish. Mr. Marshall on Mainbrace went away at a rattling pace and raced Duncraggan for all he was worth for the first quarter, when Mr. Boyd, seeing the pace was too hot to last, judiciously took a pull at his mount, and Mainbrace went away alone. At the half-mile post last time round Duncraggan and Ploughboy both came up and the bay quickly dropped back, Duncraggan romping in an easy winner. Yama was left at the post. Time, 2.51.

SECOND DAY,—WEDNESDAY, 8TH APRIL.

Sport was again first class, most of the events being keenly contested. The weather was favorable and the attendance large. The Kulangsu Cup was reduced to a match between Bravo and Yama, the former winning easily. The Min Stakes produced a good race, Serenade and Ploughboy having a grand struggle down the straight, but the Amoy pony held his own and won cleverly at last. The Race Fund Cup was considered an open race, such flyers as Mainbrace, Yarrum, Dunoon and Titmouse all appearing to have fair prospects of success. The finish was a very close one between Dunoon and Witchcraft, both ponies being capitally ridden, and the result was in doubt right up to the post, the roan winning by a short head. The Consolation proved an exercise gallop for Ploughboy, and then came the Champions, in which only two stables were represented Mr. Boyd's pair, Duncraggan and Dunoon, being opposed by Bravo. Duncraggan was, of course, a warm favorite and after an uneventful race he won easily. There were six starters for the Welter Plate, Serenade being freely backed against the field and he won cleverly, thus giving the Amoy ponies eight wins during the meeting, and as they only started ponies in eleven races, the average is a very good one.

The KULANGSU CUP, presented, value $100. Second Pony to received $25, third pony $15; for all China Ponies; weights as per scale; winners of 1 race at this meeting 7lbs. extra; of 2 or more races 12lbs. extra; subscription Ponies allowed 7lbs.; entrance $5. One mile and a-half.

Colonel Vans-Wilton's wh. Bravo, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Bartleet 1
Mr. Camera's Yama, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Oswald 2

Only two came out and Bravo on yesterday's running was very properly made favorite. Yama took the lead but could not shake off Bravo, who was content to keep within a length of him, and in the last quarter came away, and won as he liked. Time, 3.29½.

The MIN STAKES of $5 each with $50 added; Second Pony to receive $25; for Foochow and Amoy subscription Ponies; weights as per scale; winners at this meeting 10lbs. extra, of 2 or more races 12lbs. extra; Ponies that have never won a race allowed 5lbs. Previous Non-starters at this meeting excluded. Three-quarters-of-a-mile.

Captain Jack's br. Serenade, 11st. 1lb. Mr. Marshall 1
Mr. Ramsay's gr. Ploughboy, 10st. 9lb. Mr. Greaves 2
Mr. Camera's gr. Blitz, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Oswald 3
Mr. Westlin's gr. Lansdown, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Sundius 0
Mr. Ramsay's gr. Haymaker, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Jenkins 0

Serenade was most fancied, and as usual was soon leading, with Blitz and Ploughboy close together. Coming up the back straight Blitz made a bid for premier position, but soon dropped back again, making room for Ploughboy, who was going very strong. Entering the straight Mr. Ramsay's grey was on nearly even terms with the leader, but the Amoy pony had still something left in him, and Mr. Marshall just managed to land Serenade winner of a good race by a short head; Blitz was an indifferent third. Time, 1.39.

The RACE FUND CUP; presented. Value $100; for all China Ponies; weights as per scale; winners at this meeting 10lbs. extra; Ponies that have never won a race allowed 5 lbs. Entrance $5. Once Round.

Mr. Boyd's ro. Dunoon, 11st. 11lb. (incl. 10lb. ex.) Mr. Boyd 1
Mr. Belmore's gr. Witchcraft, 11st. 1lb. Mr. Marshall 2
Mr. Richam's gr. Titmouse, 10st. 6lb. Mr. Greaves 3
Mr. J. Gilpin, Jr.'s b. Mainbrace, 11st. 4lb. Mr. Siemssen 0
Mr. R. Ramsay's wh. Yarrum, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Sundius 0

Dunoon, Mainbrace and Titmouse were all backed. Yarrum gave some trouble at the start, but they were soon away to a good start, Mainbrace, Dunoon and Titmouse racing together, with Witchcraft just behind. This order was not changed until the mile post had been passed, when Witchcraft was brought along and, passing Titmouse and Mainbrace, challenged Dunoon. In a grand struggle down the straight the 10lbs. penalty perceptibly told on the roan, but running gamely, he managed to hold his own to the end and won an exciting race by a short head, bad third. Time, 1.23.

The SPRING STAKES of $10 each with $50 added, to be divided 70 per cent., 20 per cent., and 10 per cent. for first, second and third Pony; for Foochow and Amoy Subscription Ponies; weights as per scale. One mile and a quarter.

Mr. Camera's gr. Blitz, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Oswald 1
Mr. J. Gilpin Jr.'s b. Mainbrace, 11st. 4lb. Mr. Marshall 2
Mr. Ramsay's gr. Haymaker, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Greaves 3
Dr. Gardener's gr. Fritz, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Siemssen 0

Only four started, Mainbrace leading and making a fast pace, the first quarter being done in 30½ sec., with Blitz and Haymaker coming along in close company. At the mile post last time round Blitz left Haymaker, and caught up Mainbrace, the last named after a slight struggle holding out signals of distress, leaving Mr. Camera's pony to win somewhat easily; the others not in it. Time, 2.51½.

The CONSOLATION STAKES of $5 each with $25 added for the second pony; for all *bond fide* beaten Ponies that have run at the Meeting; weights as per scale. One Mile.

Mr. Ramsay's gr. Ploughboy, 10st. 9lb. Mr. Marshall 1
Mr. Camera's gr. Yama, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Oswald 2
Mr. Boyd's gr. Senegal, 11st. 1lb. Mr. Boyd 3
Mr. Richam's Titmouse, 10st. 6lb. Mr. Greaves 0

Senegal on the rails got well away from Ploughboy and Titmouse, who were close together, and these positions were maintained until reaching the mile post last time round, where both Yama and Ploughboy were sent along, but Mr. Ramsay's grey proved too fast for the crowd, and won easily by five lengths; a fair third. Time, 2.15.

The CHAMPION STAKES of $10 each with $50 added. A forced entry for all Winners at this Meeting except of Hack and Consolation Stakes; winners of two races $15 extra, and of more than two races $25 extra. Previous non-starters excluded; weights as per scale. One mile and a quarter.

Mr. Boyd's d. Duncraggan, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Boyd 1
Mr. Boyd's ro. Dunoon, 11st. 1lb. Mr. Oswald 2
Colonel Vans-Wilton's wh. Bravo, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Bartleet 3

The totalisator paid 10 cents on an investment of $5 on Mr. Boyd's stable.

When the flag was dropped Duncraggan took the lead at a slow pace with Dunoon close alongside, and Bravo lying off, about two lengths behind. The race proved a procession from start to finish. Dunoon made a spurt in the last quarter of a mile, but could not overtake this year's Hongkong Ashley Cup winner, and Bravo's severe mile and-a-half in the early part of the day quite put him out of the hunt. Duncraggan held pride of place all the way and won easily. Times, 36, 1.12, 1.46, 2.15 and 2.50.

The WELTER PLATE; value $100; for all China Ponies. Catch-weights over 11 stone 7lbs.; non-winners at this Meeting allowed 7lbs.; riders who have never won a race allowed 7 lbs.; entrance $5. Three quarters of a mile.

Captain Jack's br. Serenade, ... Mr. Marshall 1
Mr. Belmore's Witchcraft, ... Mr. Oswald 2
Captain Hope's gr. Wild Wood ... Mr. Siemssen 3
Mr. Westlin's gr. Lansdown Mr. Sundius 0
Mr. Ramsay's gr. Haymaker Mr. Greaves 0
Dr. Gardener's gr. Fritz Mr. Gilmour 0

They got away to a good start, Serenade on the outside making hot running, and after the first hundred yards held his field by two lengths. From this point, having secured the rails, Capt. Jack's brown sailed along in splendid style, eventually winning easily from Witchcraft, with the ancient Wild Wood a bad third. Time, 1.39½.

OFF DAY,—THURSDAY, 9TH APRIL.

A good programme having been arranged, a most enjoyable afternoon's sport was the outcome. The first race was started at 3 p.m. and as six events and a dead-heat were run off, the Stewards are to be congratulated on their management. The race for the Duncraggan Cup was a splendid struggle, the first three ponies being all very close at the finish. The other events were rather easy wins, Mr. Marshall having it all his own way. Senegal's time in the Foochow Cricket Club Cup was very good, as he only cantered the last quarter and could have certainly done it in about 2.21, which is considered fast on this course.

The "DUNCRAGGAN" CUP, (presented), value $100; for Foochow-owned ponies; winners of one race at this Meeting 7lb. extra, of two or more races 12lb. extra; riders who have not won a race allowed 7lb.; 1½ miles; entrance $5; to go to second pony.

Colonel Vans-Wilton's wh. Bravo. Mr. Bartleet 1
Capt. Hope's gr. Wild Wood ... Mr. Siemssen 2
Mr. Ramsay's gr. Haymaker ... Mr. Marshall 3
Mr. Camera's gr. Yama Mr. Oswald 0

Haymaker took the lead for the first mile, when Bravo and Wild Wood both challenged and a grand race ensued down the straight, resulting in a dead-heat for first place, with Haymaker an excellent third. Time, 2.52½.

The dead-heat was run off at the end of the day, Bravo winning by a short head after a most exciting race. Time, 3 min.

KINKEE CUP, (presented), value $100; for all *bond-fide* beaten Ponies that have run at the meeting; weights as per scale; half-a-mile; entrance $5, to go to second pony.

Mr. R. Ramsay's wh. Yarrum, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Marshall 1
Mr. Richam's gr. Titmouse, 10st. 6lb. Mr. Greaves 2
Mr. Belmore's gr. Witchcraft, 11st. 1lb. Mr. Oswald 3
Captain Hope's gr. Flight, 10st. 9lb. Mr. Drummond 0

After a couple of false starts, they got off fairly well, Flight and Titmouse showing the way, with Yarrum close alongside. Coming into the straight Yarrum was on even terms with the leaders and sailed in an easy winner by a length. Time, 64 secs.

VISITORS' CUP, (presented), for all China Ponies; winners at this meeting 7lbs. extra; of two or more races 12lbs. extra. Starters for Champions excluded; one mile. Entrance $5, to go to second pony.

Mr. Ramsay's gr. Ploughboy 10st. 9lb. Mr. Marshall 1
Mr. Camera's gr. Blitz 10st. 12lb. Mr. Oswald 2
Mr. de San Domingo's br. Uplands 10st. 12lb. Mr. Greaves 3

Ploughboy took the lead at the fall of the flag and cantered away, winning as he liked in 2 min. 17½ secs.

The HACK STAKES, a sweepstakes of $10 each; half-a-mile.

Dr. Gardener's wh. White Satin, 11st. 1lb. Mr. Krohn 1
Colonel Vans-Wilton's gr. Begorra 10st. 12lb. Mr. Bartleet 2
Mr. Dizzy's gr. Wild Hawk, 11st. 1lb. Mr. Ballock 3

White Satin got the best of the start and won easily. Time, 72½ sec.

FOOCHOW CRICKET CLUB CUP; presented, value $100; for all China Ponies; weights as per scale; winners at this meeting 7lb. extra, of two or more races 12lb. Riders who have never won a race allowed 7lbs.; 1½ miles. Entrance $5, to go to second pony.

Mr. Boyd's gr. Senegal 11st. 1lb. Mr. Marshall 1
Mr. J. Gilpin, Jr's. b. Mainbrace 11st. 4lb. Mr. Jenkins 2
Mr. Dryasdust's ch. Fantan 11st. 4lb. Mr. Greaves 3
Dr. Gardener's gr. Fritz 10st. 12lb. Mr. Gilmour 0
Mr. Ramsay's gr. Haymaker 11st. 5lb. (incl. 7lb. ex.) Mr. Drummond 0

Senegal got well away and going his own pace was soon some lengths ahead, eventually winning in the commonest of canters from Mainbrace by ten lengths; the others were beaten off. Time, 3.26.

MAFOOS RACE; weights 9st. 10lb.; distance, a mile and a quarter.

Mr. Boyd's d. Duncraggan, ... Mouse 1
Mr. Camera's gr. Blitz, ... John Scott 2
Mr. Camera's gr. Yama, ... Lin 3
Captain Jack's br. Serenade, ... Sin Qui 0

Duncraggan had the race in hand all the way, and won easily from Blitz in 2 min. 53½ secs.

THE "STRATHENDRICK"-"DEVONHURST" COLLISION CASE.

The following decision was arrived at on the 8th inst. by the Marine Board in Singapore appointed to inquire into the circumstances of the disastrous collision between the steamships *Strathendrick* and *Devonhurst*, in the Madura Straits, on the 8th of last March:—

FINDING.

This Court having heard the evidence relating to the circumstances attending the collision between the steamships *Devonhurst* and *Strathendrick*, finds that such collision occurred in Madura Straits, about 1.15 a.m. on the 8th March, 1891, resulting in the total loss of the *Strathendrick*, and of the life of Alfred Davidson, her second engineer.

There is considerable conflict of evidence as to the exact position of the vessels when the collision occurred, but as it is admitted on both sides that there was plenty of sea room, this question does not appear material to the issue.

The accounts given by the two parties as to the facts leading up to the collision materially differ.

The Chief Officer of the *Devonhurst*, who was in charge of his ship from midnight until after the collision, did not watch the light approaching with sufficient care, and the Court is of opinion that in starboarding his helm under the circumstances, he committed a breach of Article 16 of the "Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea." The Court therefore adjudges that the certificate, No. 89,458, of Charles Horne be suspended for two years.

The Court is of opinion that David James Davis, 2nd Officer of the *Strathendrick*, who was in charge of that ship from midnight to the time of collision, committed a grave error in neither calling the Captain nor complying with Article 18 of the "Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea." They regret that they feel compelled to suspend his certificate, No. 021,602, for three months.

The Court exonerates the masters of both vessels from all blame as regards the circumstances leading to the collision, and also finds that no blame is attributable to any of the survivors for the loss of the life of the second engineer of the *Strathendrick* who, from the evidence, probably went down with the ship, while endeavouring to save his effects. The Court is also of opinion that after the collision everything that was possible to be done to save life was done by the officers of the ships.

The Court wishes to draw attention to the very opposite nature relating to the collision, made by Captain Hardy in his official log book, and is of opinion that such meagre details do not form a satisfactory record of the circumstances attending the collision, such as is distinctly directed to be made by the Merchant Shipping Act.

(Sd.) S. Le THORNTON, (President.)
A. T. L. HUGHES HUGHES, Lt. R.N.
C. O. MADGE, Com. Tel. Ship *Recorder*.
T. W. GRAVES, Master Mariner.

The Court refused to allow any other certificates to be substituted for those taken away from the officers mentioned above; the Court also refused to allow costs, as it was generally understood that the Board of Trade defrayed the costs.

HUMPHREYS ESTATE AND FINANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this Company was held at its office, Hongkong Dispensary, to-day (April 16th). Mr. J. D. Humphreys presided, and there were present:—Messrs. W. E. Clement, T. H. Talbot, G. C. Cox, W. D. Sutton, A. H. Mancell, J. A. Jupp, A. P. Nobbs, and H. Humphreys (secretary).

The report and accounts were adopted, on the motion of Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. Nobbs.

The Chairman intimated that Mr. Maitland, the auditor, had gone home, and proposed Mr. St. J. Hancock to the post.

Mr. Sutton seconded, and it was agreed to.

The Chairman then announced that the dividends would be payable to-morrow. He added that owing to the unsuitability of the nature of the present Memoranda of Association fresh ones were being drafted, and would shortly be submitted.

Mr. Talbot proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Humphreys for his able management of the Company's business during the year, and its satisfactory results.

Mr. Clement seconded, and the motion was cordially passed.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE AUSTIN ARMS HOTEL AND BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ordinary general meeting of the above Company was held at the office, Queen's Road, on the 16th inst., for the purpose of receiving the report of the Directors, together with a statement of accounts to the 31st ember last. There were present:—Messrs. D. Humphreys, (Chairman); E. L. Woodin, G. R. Stevens, J. Orange, W. E. Clement, F. W. Heuermann, J. B. Scott, T. H. Talbot, W. D. Sutton, W. F. Hatherly and H. Humphreys (Secretary).

The Chairman, after asking that the report should be taken as read, in the absence of any questions proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Heuermann seconded, and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then proposed the confirmation of the appointment of Messrs. J. Orange and H. Humphreys to the Board of Directors, in the place of Messrs. Heyn and Brodie resigned.

Mr. Clement seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Chairman said that, in accordance with the Articles of Association, he, as Managing Director, and Mr. H. Humphreys retired from the Board, but being eligible they offered themselves for re-election.

Mr. Heuermann proposed, and Mr. Clement seconded, their re-election, which was agreed to.

The Chairman next proposed the re-election of Mr. F. Henderson and Mr. Hawkins as auditors, which was agreed to.

Mr. Sutton proposed a vote of thanks to the Managing Director for his energetic efforts on behalf of the Company.

Mr. Stevens seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried.

The Chairman thanked them for their vote, and said he hoped the hotel would be opened between the 15th or 24th of next month, but he would like the hotel to be open to the community for inspection a few days before that time. The directors had done their best and no effort had been spared towards attaining success to the best of their ability. As far as he could say he believed the hotel would pay. All the rooms had been properly furnished and had been taken. He thought that it might be necessary later on to alter the Articles of Association as to the number of directors, the attendance usually being so small, but he was glad to see so many gentlemen present at this meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

The proceedings then terminated.

EXTENSION OF TRADE WITH FORMOSA.

TRIAL TRIP OF THE STEAMER "SMITH."

For some time past indications have not been wanting to shew that the development of the rich and contiguous field of trade found in Formosa was being taken in hand energetically and enterprisingly. A number of Chinese capitalists here and at the neighbouring Coast Ports have thrown down the gauntlet to the "Douglas" line, at present the principal carriers between Formosa and Hongkong, by chartering the yacht-like steamer *Smith*, already so well-known in Far Eastern waters. In pursuance of this scheme the *Smith* was overhauled in the dock at Hungham during the last few days, and, on the 16th instant, was officially surveyed and tested for the purpose of obtaining a Government passenger license. Among the guests invited to be present at the trial trip by Mr. Achut, (chief manager of the Formosa Trading Corporation, who has chartered the vessel and her sister-ship *Cass* from the Governor of Formosa) were a number of Chinese merchants interested in trade with Formosa and South China, Mr. G. Peebles, (Government Marine Surveyor); Mr. H. J. Dixon, Assistant Marine Surveyor; Mr. J. W. Boyd, superintendent, Kowloon Dock, Mr. W. H. Walker, Lloyd's Surveyor of Machinery, representatives of the local Press, &c. &c. After tiffin the vessel left Hungham for a run over the measured mile, under the command of Capt. H. Leffler, and although the weather was dangerously thick a speed of 15½ knots was attained without using the forced draught. A trip round the island was afterwards made.

A license to carry 600 passengers has now been granted, that being the extent of the very excellent accommodation provided. The *Smith* and *Cass* will be mainly loaded with coal cargoes, obtained from Mr. Achut's mines at Wan Wau Keh. This Formosa coal has already gained favor in Northern ports, at Tls. 4½ per ton, and is expected to find a ready sale here.

Two other steamers, with a speed of 12 knots, have been ordered by the same Syndicate from the builders, and there is no doubt that business is meant.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Canton, 15th April, 1891.

This city was the scene of a frightful butchery yesterday, no fewer than ninety-seven alleged criminals suffering the extreme penalty of the law. Several of these are stated to have been connected with the *Namoa* piracy. The famous "Potter's field," in which public executions are carried out in Canton, was far too circumscribed for the heavy work to be got through on this occasion, so another shambles was extemporised. Eight executioners were engaged in the carnage, and the scene is described as brutal almost beyond conception.

Li Han-chang, who is all but universally detested by all classes, bids fair to rival the atrocities of the infamous Viceroy Yeh, who was captured by the British and sent as a prisoner to Calcutta in 1858, under the special chaperonage of Mr. Chaloner Alabaster, the present Consul-General for Great Britain in Canton. Yeh was undoubtedly the greatest public executioner of this generation, his record exceeding one hundred thousand human lives, the vast majority of which were sacrificed to gratify the lust for blood of a ruffian without parallel in modern history.

Talking of Yeh reminds me of an amusing incident that occurred after his somewhat undignified capture here. He was conveyed to Calcutta on board H.M.S. *Inflexible*, and, according to Chinese traditions, maintained throughout a stolid but dignified demeanour, pretending to have no interest whatever in anything mundane. However, even the stoicism of a high-class Chinese mandarin has its limits, and on the arrival of the *Inflexible* at Calcutta, Yeh, hearing everything particularly quiet as the war-vessel proceeded to take up her berth off the Ghaut, could not resist the temptation of taking a glimpse at the City of Palaces which was to be his future prison, and which eventually proved his death place. Although built on the obese lines so common with Chinese dignitaries, the Viceroy managed to climb up on the lockers in that portion of Captain Brooker's cabin which had been portioned off for his accommodation, and after surveying the scene was in the act of getting down from his elevated position when a "midshipmite" suddenly rushed into the cabin for the barometer, and discovered the once almighty Viceroy in a particularly ridiculous and even embarrassing situation, which those acquainted with the strict etiquette in Chinese high official circles will readily comprehend. The youngster's buoyancy of spirits at once found vent in roars of laughter; old Yeh was struck dumb and could only glare at the intruder, but there was that in the tyrant's evil glance that foreboded a short and merry dance for the youthful officer had the ex-Viceroy's power been equal to his will.

Yeh was a bloodthirsty autocrat of the very worst type, but it is by no means certain that our present Viceroy, Li Han-chang—elder brother (and don't you forget it) of Li Hung-chang, Imperial Grand Secretary and Governor-General of Chihli, the Bismarck of China according to our effusive friend Sir "Gush" Bowen—won't go down to posterity as the greatest oppressor this portion of the Chinese empire has ever experienced. Every description of gambling has been authorised by his Excellency; every system of taxation has been sanctioned that could draw money out of a long-suffering people, and not for the public interests; every treaty right and law as between foreigners and the Chinese have been ruthlessly over-ridden, and the protests of the Foreign Consuls practically ignored—very much in Viceroy Yeh's style—; and this veteran statesman (?) varies the many demoralising agencies he has set to work and fostered by chopping off ninety-seven heads as an ante-breakfast amusement. Canton has reason to be proud of its aged Viceroy, Li Hung-chang of his elder brother, and the Christian Government of Hongkong of its useful ally.

Discontent is very rife in Canton; trade continues exceedingly bad both here and in the country; poverty is wide-spread, and starvation, owing to the scarcity of rice and excessive taxation, threatens on every side; and robberies and outbreaks on a large scale are constantly occurring. It was only the other day that an armed attack by forty masked men was made on Fati, on the opposite side of the river to Shameen, and the entire district pillaged, but fortunately with the loss of only one life, that of a watchman, who showed fight and was cut down. Friends of Canton and those who have substantial interests in the place recognise what they lost when the strong hand and upright policy of Chang Chih-tung were taken away.

Matters on Shameen continue as quiet as ever, and there appears to be very little prospect of any improvement in general business. You have already recorded that Mr. Alabaster, our British Consul-General, vacates his post early next month, and will be succeeded by Mr. T. Watters from Newchwang. The *doyen* of the British Consular Service in China will be greatly missed, and it is sad to think that his striking abilities as a diplomatist, added to an experience of Chinese affairs that is unequalled, will shortly be lost to the country and to British residents in the Far East. The Foreign Office has a deal to answer for; but so far as China is concerned it has for some time past, like the Hongkong Government, been under the thumb of Sir Robert Hart and the Chinese Customs. This is not very flattering to our national pride, but it is nevertheless true.

As a proof that a Chinese mob can be as orderly and well-behaved as the masses in any other country when *en fête*, was exemplified last Tuesday, the sixth day of the third moon, on which date the Spring Festival was observed with extraordinary interest and enthusiasm. Hundreds of thousands thronged the streets to witness the processions and other celebrations, but although an unusual number of foreigners were visiting Canton that day, not a single insult was offered outside the usual harmless badinage, nor did the slightest disturbance occur. It does seem rather curious that the Viceroy should have selected this day, of all days in the year, for his "Feast of Blood;" and stranger still that, whilst on wholesale slaughter bent, his Excellency didn't bring up the roll of victims to the even hundred. Perhaps Li Hun-chang, like our historic friend Rory O'More, thinks there is luck in odd numbers!

No fresh news about the Canton-Kowloon Railway, and I am sorely afraid that all that has been already published on the question must be taken with a very large grain of salt. The project, from a commercial point of view, is perfectly hopeless, a practical impossibility.

There has been a strong feeling of antagonism displayed lately amongst Chinese merchants against the China Navigation Company, and in a slightly lesser degree against the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co. The alleged grievance is the policy pursued by these Companies when the China Merchants' Co.'s steamer *Klangkwan* went into dock; the Chinese passenger fares were at once raised to fifty cents, and cargo rates proportionately, although it was well known that the *Klangkwan* would only be a short time off the line. This policy, there can be no doubt whatever, was short-sighted—almost suicidal, but who is to blame for it does not appear to be clearly understood here. However, an informal decision had been arrived at among native shippers and passenger agents to "boycott" the *Hankow*, and to give the *Ho-nam*, *Powan*, and *Fatshan* as little patronage as possible. Of course, the Napoleonic Agent of the China Navigation Co. and the puissant Secretary of the Steamboat Co. had to take all their windy resolves back and to eat the usual humble pie—a dish they must be well accustomed to by this time—by reducing their fares almost to zero, and yet the Chinese are not satisfied and will patronise the *Klang-kwan*, *Pasle* and *Tai-on*, even at personal inconvenience to themselves. And nobody can wonder at it, considering the insolent dictatorship of the Canton river traffic usurped for years by a weak and inconsistent combination of hopeless incapables, who either lacked the courage or common-sense to follow up their blatant threats of a rigid monopoly by decisive action. An all-round reduction of rates will greatly assist Chinese passengers, it ought to assist Canton shippers, it can scarcely affect, to any appreciable extent, the carping powers of the three Chinese-owned steamers—as they must have been prepared for a severe war of rates—but it will considerably reduce the receipts of the *Hankow*, and it may become a question whether it would not be better for the shareholders of the Steamboat Co. if the omniscient Board of Directors decided to send the *Ho-nam*, *White Cloud*, *Klung-chow*, and that old gold-mine the *Powan*, to keep company with the *Kiuklang* in Yau-ma-ti Bay! The *Fatshan*, jointly owned by the would-be monopolists of the Canton river trade, can pay her way if judiciously run, but I don't know enough of the *Heungshan* to say whether or not her daily pilgrimage between Macao and Hongkong is a paying business or the other thing. My solution of all this trouble is that a uniform scale of charges both for passengers and freight should be fixed and stuck to, opposition or no opposition. Two dollars single fare, or $3 return, are quite sufficient for first-class European fares between here and Hongkong, and the same rates would be ample between here and Macao. Between Hongkong and Macao, a three hours' run, $3 are charged for a single fare, which is grossly exorbitant, and a charge of $2 single and $3 return would pay the Company very much better. I can't fix a tariff for Chinese passengers, but unless it has been determined to fight out the fight to the bitter end and let the weakest go to the wall, it would be much better for all parties concerned to determine a settled rate and stick to it.

The Shameen Hotel is becoming a great institution here. It has truly supplied a long felt want; indeed, its only drawback is that during the past two months its accommodation, perfect in its way, has not been equal to the requirements of visitors. A considerable extension of the present premises is very desirable, and will prove profitable to the shareholders in this concern. Mr. Geo. C. Miln, the famous American actor, gave a performance last Thursday night, consisting of recitals and readings from Shakespere and other authors, in the spacious dining hall of the Hotel, which was specially fitted up for the occasion. The audience, doubtless owing to the festivities in connection with the visit of the Czarewitch, was not so large as expected, nor did the entertainment, which was given under great difficulties, quite come up to anticipations, although both Mr. and Mrs. Miln were heartily applauded for their clever dramatic efforts. If the Hotel management would only have a movable stage constructed, and keep a decent piano on the premises, many talented entertainers visiting Hongkong could visit this port with profit to themselves and pleasure to Shameen residents.

WESTERN SHANTUNG.

The society known as the Tsai Li, the headquarters of which are supposed to be in Tientsin, has been often suppressed, as often bursts out again into full vigor. Within the past few years, it appears to have spread southward, in this direction. It is more than three years since mention was made in these columns of a case in this district, in which the local magistrate captured the leaders of the Tsai Li fraternity, just as they were about to hold one of their annual feasts. In the same place precisely the same thing happened a year or more later, and in the third moon of last year, the experience was repeated in the district of Tê'chou. The magistrate had the five head-masters apprehended, examined them severely, and accused them of belonging to the "White Lily Sect," a name full of terrors for Chinese magistrates ever since the days of the Taipings. It was in vain for the leaders to declare that theirs is a harmless society; the official could not be made to understand what the particular '*li*' or 'ritual' is, which they profess to observe, and had them all beaten for a warning. Since then the sect has to some extent waned, but at present in the districts next south of this one it is flourishing and the adherents are said to be counted by many hundreds. The people are all perfectly well aware of the fact of the propagation of this sect but do not concern themselves about it, except with characteristic Chinese prudence to make it a point to refrain from all depreciatory allusions to the society, at fairs or other public places, as its adherents are so numerous and widely diffused that a crowd of them might easily be gathered to take vengeance upon one wholly unsuspicious of any evil. The head-master (or *shihfu*) is said to receive a fee of about $0.75 from each adherent, which evidently makes it an object to him to spread the new doctrine. There is so little that is novel about mere abstinence from wine, opium and tobacco, that it is impossible to persuade the average Chinese that there is not some deep ulterior design involved in this sect, especially as it is noted that the recruits are nearly all of a bad class, many of them former opium-smokers, gamblers, and otherwise objectionable. They are pledged to reveal the secrets neither "to father and mother above, nor to wife and children below." The maxim never to speak of halters in the house of one who was hanged, is quite Chinese in its spirit. Upon visiting a certain village not long since, the writer was cautioned not to say anything reflecting upon Mohammedans, for the reason that most of the people in that village were originally members of that race and sect, but were now 'perverts' to heathenism. As cases of this sort do not appear to be sufficiently frequent to relieve them of novelty, it seemed worth while to make careful inquiries of acquaintances in other villages adjacent. It was the unanimous testimony that the alleged fact is true. The secession from Mohammedanism took place about three generations since, and was caused by the circumstance that one of the Mohammedans had taken a literary degree, which requires at Confucian temples devotions not theoretically accordant with Mohammedan prejudices. But as many officials are taken from the circle of the followers of the prophet, who for that purpose put their faith in abeyance, the explanation did not seem altogether satisfactory. One of the suburbs of the nearest district city was full of Mohammedans, who visited the recusants, reviled them for three days, and hung pieces of pork at their doors, as a contemptuous challenge. At the expiration of that the separation was complete, and the clan all lapsed into idolatry and the use of coffins. Even the surname was changed in character, but not in sound, from *ma* (horse) to *mo* (hemp).

It would be interesting to ascertain whether other similar instances have been noted, and if so whether there is reason to suppose them to be common. A friend of the writer was drawing water from his village some time ago, using a kind of well-sweep not unusual in that region, consisting of a tall pole set in the ground with another hung crosswise, the bucket being suspended from one end of the latter. At the other end one or two heavy stones are placed as weights to bring the bucket up when full. While he was raising his bucket, his back being turned to the end of the sweep, freighted with the stones, a stranger came along just in time to get knocked on the head. When our friend turned round, there was a man lying dead under the stones of the sweep, and no one else in sight! This made a serious matter of water-drawing. The stranger was removed to a house and every effort was made to bring him to consciousness, and after he had been worked over all night, the attempt fortunately succeeded. Strange to say, he did not seem to be injured vitally, and in the morning was sent on his way, with a gift of a plaster for his cranium! If the stones had been a little heavier, we fear that our friend might by this time be living in banishment on the frontiers of the empire, as a punishment for not being able to see behind him when drawing water from a deep well!

This reminds us of another case which occurred a few months ago, in a family with which the writer is acquainted. Several small boys were playing around a well, which, as seems invariably to be the case in China, was altogether free from any screen whatever. During the play, one of the children fell into the well, and all the rest adopted what so far as we know is the invariable plan of Chinese children on such occasions, and ran away as fast as possible. When the child was missed, a long search was made, and next day he was found in the well, the children meantime having allowed the facts to leak out. The family which had lost the child insisted that one of the other children, a "cousin" or "uncle cousin," had pushed him in on purpose, and threatened a law-suit. This was a mere device to get something out of a well-to-do family, an adopted son of which was one of the children concerned. The widow, who was the head of the family, dreaded above all things a harassing law-suit, rather than run the risk of it, consented to make out a deed for the transfer of *ten mow of land* as a satisfaction to the feelings of the afflicted parents of the drowned child! In another village in the same country, several children were playing about a school-house, and one of them proposed that they play suicide, by hanging, of which every Chinese child is certain to hear a great deal. One of the children placed his girdle about his neck, climbed on a bench, passed the girdle over the door-frame, and his companions pulled away the bench. Frightened at the struggles of the child in the air, his comrades all ran off, and long before the circumstance became known, the child was dead. In such cases, whether the parents make a demand for some kind of reparation will depend upon their ability to make trouble, and to terrify the other party.

It is well known that Chinese boys are very much addicted to the practice of running away from home, which they often do whenever their parents treat them with exceptional harshness, when the schoolmaster is too strict, or when domestic matters do not go to their liking. Every village has such cases, which nearly always take the same course. The lad directs his foot-steps to some relative or acquaintance upon whom he may fasten himself, while he is trying to induce a cold world to yield him a support upon easier terms than he had at home. It is not often that one hears of a Chinese runaway who does well. Such an one the writer met a few days since, and his case is so exceptional as to be almost worth relating. At the early age of eleven this boy lost both his parents, and although several of his uncles were in good situations in the district yamên, the lad did not find such encouragement as to make him fond of the place of his birth. Accordingly he accompanied a party of soldiers to Tientsin, distant more than two hundred miles, where the soldiers were ordered to work on a new water-way which the Governor-General was at that time making from the Grand Canal to the Peiho at Hsinch'eng. Here the bright little lad attracted the attention of an official, who enquired into the circumstances, and took the child to wait upon the official's wife. After remaining in this position for some time, the official was promoted, but took the trouble to recommend the lad to another mandarin, with whom the child had a similar experience, until he had grown to be a man, and had come into the employ of the Customs Taotai of Tientsin, by whom he was taken to Shanghai and many other places. He has now obtained a leave of absence for a few months, and for the first time in eleven years returns to his home. Out of his pay of five or six taels per month, he is generally able to save but a small amount, owing to the extravagant habits which such positions require. But the return of a youth of 22, who ran away a mere child, and who has met with what from the Chinese point of view must be regarded as dazzling success, can scarcely fail to influence many other children of his native city to repeat the experiment when fortune opens to them the way. The case is of interest, as showing that ads are sometimes to be met with who have the good sense to fulfil their duties promptly and efficiently, without making constant complaints of the extra labours imposed upon them. Without such a qualification, this youth would never have succeeded, and the lack of it is a very common defect among Chinese who are in the position of servants. Every one is aware that the Chinese have a system of numeration on their fingers, of which they make constant use, and a knowledge of which is almost a necessity as a condition of comprehending, not so much what is said, as what is pointed out. It is also well known, having been remarked by all observant travellers, like Baron Richtofen, that on occasions when the Chinese do their bargaining at a fair or other place, where it is desirable to keep the terms secret, the digital plan of notation is employed by feeling the fingers within their long sleeves, which are a perfect bar to curious spectators, or listeners. But it is one thing to be aware of this practice, and another to be expert in it, as was recently exhibited in the experience of a friend of the writer, who for lack of such expertness found himself placed in a strange position. He was offered a horse-trade, while away from home, and the animal which it was proposed to exchange for his own, was brought forward, hauled around by the tail (to prove its gentleness), and otherwise displayed. Our friend's mafoo then came confidentially forward, followed of course by eager listeners, and grasping his employer's arm, inserted a hand within his sleeve, and began clutching at his fingers, and at the palm of his hand, in a manner which was evidently intended to be full of meaning. "The owner of the horse," he said, "wanted so much for his pony, and would only allow so much for ours" (at the same time giving significant grips), "but I told him that friendship is friendship, while business is business, and that so much for his, so much for ours, and so much balance in cash, would be about the proper thing; don't you think so?" What was our friend to do? Of the several amounts named, he had not the smallest notion whatever, not having been able to get any definite conception of what the fingering denoted. To ask what the sum was, would have betrayed his ignorance, not only to the bystanders, possibly upsetting the bargain, but worse still to the mafoo, the thought of doing which was odious, as our friend well knew that in any case it was necessary to trust largely to the mafoo's discretion. So our friend said thoughtfully, "Yes, that is not far from the right sum, for such a horse," wondering meantime what the sum might be. Later in the day, he was gratified to find that his judgment had not been in fault, for the other party had led away the horse which was offered, the inducements not being sufficient. It is the practice of the fruit farmers in this region to set out their young trees in the middle of the rainy season, when the chances of the 'survival of the fittest' are thought to be the greatest. Another plan is to wait until the middle of November, set out the young trees, water them well, and then bury them entirely under a mound of earth, thrusting in a stalk of kao-liang for the trees to 'breathe through' during the winter. Next spring, in the term called *chun fên* (the vernal equinox) the trees will be grafted. A Chinese friend who is expert in the fruit business, gave us a friendly caution as to the purchase of fruit trees for raising. "Do not buy of the regular nurserymen, said he, because after they have taken up the plants *they always make a practice of pouring hot water on them, to make it certain that they will not live; in order that the trees may be replaced next year.* To avoid this mal-practice, the only way is to buy through some one who is known to you, who buys of some one who is known to him, in which case pure friendship prevents scalding!—*N. C. Daily News.*

LIFE IN VICTORIA GAOL.

I.

"A prison is a place of woe,
A place where none can thrive;
A touchstone true to try a friend,
A grave to one alive;
Some are there for right,
Some are there for wrong;
Some are truly rogues and thieves
With honest men among."

Inscription over the Tolbooth door.

It is not the privilege of everyone to have an opportunity of thoroughly, and at leisure, studying the internal economy of that mysterious institution known as Victoria Gaol, but as that privilege was mine it may be of some little interest to the multitude to know what existence in there really is like, if I can adequately describe it. Let it, however, be understood at the outset that I make no pretence of narrating my own personal experiences—I desire simply to depict the various phases of the average prisoner's life. To do so properly, of course, we must follow him from the moment when the unfortunate hears the last heavy iron gate close on him, and he is handed over by the police. We are supposing, in the present instance, that the man is a European. He is deposited by the constable in the receiving-room—a big inhospitable-looking place adjacent to the office; the warrant of commitment is handed over to the officer in charge, and the man is ordered to sit down on a form among the daily dozen of Chinese follow-sufferers—nearly always a ragged, dirty lot, whose apathy is only stirred when the luxury of a good scratch is indulged in. Whilst waiting for his turn the prisoner has ample time to have a disconsolate look about him, and survey the bright array of gyves and fetters that ornament the wall, the stone well-like baths at the further end, and the two gentlemen who are going to take him in hand. One is a stern-looking Europeanised Punjaubi; the other hails from Barbadoes When his turn at length arrives—and they don't say "next" quite so blandly as friend Moore, the tonsorial artist, does—the prisoner is told to take his clothes off. He generally does so with about as much alacrity as if he were going to be hanged, but he has got to do it. In the meantime the Keeper of the Wardrobes—a gentle pirate by profession, until adversity overtook him—brings down a bundle from aloft, which contains the newcomer's future attire. Before donning it, however, and whilst still in what the genial Artemus calls "the skandalous costoom of the Greek slaiv," the prisoner is directed to get on the little weighing-machine in the corner, where his avoirdupois is registered. Then he starts dressing. All things considered, he doesn't find the "uniform" very terrible. For instance in Dartmoor a man gets canvas clothes, and stockings with broad red rings round them; at Pentonville (at least until recently, if not still) part of the "rig" is a cloth mask, which would transform Adonis into a hideous-looking bogie. Here, however, his kit comprises—grey flannel underclothing, similar to that provided in the Army, with the addition of a big number on it; ditto shirt; thick, coarsely knit socks; a pair of pocket-less blue serge trousers, whose only fault is that they always seem to have been made for somebody else a great deal bigger than you, who sat down carelessly on a paint-pot several times whilst wearing them; and a pair of brown leather shoes of ample dimensions. The *foot ensemble*, as disclosed by a little glass on the wall, is not cheering—but then one recollects that he needn't go out much into Society in that get-up. Before he gets into his shoes he is taken outside and measured, for purposes of reference, and then the 'barber beckons him. The barber is not a man one would voluntarily select if it were true, as it is alleged, that whilst participating in the robbery of a foreigner he proposed to his accomplices to nail their victim to the floor by the ears to keep him occupied after they had gone. However, there is no choice, and, squatting on a stool, with a tiny slip of cotton around this neck to save his valuable clothes from getting ruined, the new prisoner is carefully—no, not carefully—scalped. A little square of cotton, for a handkerchief; a somewhat bigger scrap of corrugated stuff called a towel; an abundantly inhabited Glengarry cap; and finally, an Eton-shaped jacket that has evidently been carved out of a military overcoat that was cast-off early in the history of Hongkong, are handed to him, and his "reception" is complete!

In the case of the Chinese the routine is pretty much the same. Be be a silk-robed swindler, or one of the poor opium-sodden wretches who haunt our streets, pestering every passer-by, or a sharp, vicious youngster taking his first stroll along the wide and down-sloping path which leads to penal servitude, all receive scant ceremony. The Mohammedan from Northern India catches up the first warrant he comes to, and shouts out the name. May be it is that of the old mendicant referred to, sitting in the middle of the crowd, not taking a bit of notice, and probably not having the sense to know his own name if he heard it shouted in his ear. But the pensive far-away look on his dirty countenance is quickly changed as he suddenly gets a vigorous smack from the brown official hand, and he at once lends all his aid to the work of identification. He sheds his rags, and the colony of parasites that find refuge there, and—if he possesses such a luxury—unplaits the false switch which amplifies his own scanty queue. His money and goods are inventoried and packed away; he is weighed and measured; a faint show of washing, in the stone bath, is gone through, and, after his head has been shaved, a flannel shirt and pair of wide tail-cloth pantaloons are thrown at him, and he is in full costume—unless one counts the iron anklet which remains to be riveted on.

In the case of colored prisoners classification is made on peculiar principles. There is an old story about Buckland, the naturalist, who was made to take out a dog-ticket for a monkey when travelling by rail once. In his indignation he hauled out a tortoise, and asked if that was to be charged for as a "dog," also. "No," replied the genius of a booking-clerk, "that's an insect." From that all I could gather, colored prisoners are sized up in pretty much the same way. Among the European prisoners are two colored men—both for killing; one is a West Indian and one an American. There is also an undoubtedly pure-bred Chinaman, though he called himself Portuguese. These were "Europeans." Amongst the Chinese prisoners, wearing the same dress and getting the same diet, were two British subjects—one a fine big fellow from Mauritius, who spoke just as good English (besides French) as his more favored African brethren; the other a Hindoo. To be a colored subject of Great Britain was apparently a guarantee of genuine blackness; a buck-nigger from the States was "white," according to the regulations. This discrimination—or want of it—has more than once come under official notice, and yet it still exists.

At 4 p.m. the unfortunates are ranged in line in the quadrangle outside the receiving-room their numbers checked, and the finishing touches put by the Barbadian Cerberus. He runs his fingers through their hair, opens their mouths and looks into their interior, does if they have anything hidden in their clothes, and then, ringing a bell in the hall of the frowning edifice, orders them to mount the steps leading thereto, and thenceforward, for varying periods, the outer world is a blank to them.

II.

"Stone bars do not a prison make,
Nor iron bars a cage;
Minds innocent and quiet take
That for a hermitage."

Lovelace.

I left the prisoners trooping up the entrance to the Gaol proper; we will follow the European's fortunes for awhile. At the top of the steps he enters the "hall," a dark hexagonal place on which the various corridors converge. The building, I may here explain, is constructed on the conventional plan of a fan, or, what is perhaps a better illustration, in the shape of an outstretched hand. The palm represents the hall, the fingers show the radiating corridors, three stories high, and the spaces between the fingers stand for the exercise and labor yards. The prisoner whom we are accompanying is sharply ordered to "get upstairs" by the hall-officer, who at the same time calls out loudly to some invisible power that "One European!" is coming. Turning out of the cold bare hall, the man ascends a flight of stone steps to the corridor devoted to foreign prisoners, where he encounters the officer who will hereafter put him in his little bed, so to speak. Out of the couple of dozen cells which face each other so forbiddingly the turnkey selects a vacant one, and, unlocking the heavy lattice-gate, orders his new charge to enter, and re-locks the gate. By-and-bye a Chinaman comes along with half a loaf of white bread, puts it through the bars, and our friend has got all the board and lodging he will get until next morning. The hour or two of daylight that remain are ample to take an inventory of his "hermitage." Stuck up over his gate, on the outside, are the figures "720," shewing the amount of cubic space within. The ceiling is some ten feet high, the length is about nine feet, and the width eight—just leaving space for two steps and a swing round, like an animal in a menagerie, as a large proportion of the promenade is blocked up by the telescopic iron bedstead in one corner, and the *cabinet* in the other. Besides these, and a cuspidor, the only movable property is a smallish wooden bath-tub that will hold about four gallons, and which is theoretically supposed to be used to drink out of. Nothing could be more conducive to total abstinence—even from water—than to have to elevate a thick-edged vessel weighing several pounds every time one wants to "irrigate," especially on a cold dark night, when a quart or so flows over the rim of the cask and down the breast of the drinker. A tin dipper would be too luxurious, and cause intemperance, I suppose, so none are provided. From the wall hangs a wire bell-pull, for use in case the prisoner wants an officer, or desires to hang himself with his belt. There is not much light; the two small barred windows are high up the wall, the thickness of which half obscures them.

The first afternoon is not a pleasant experience, even when it has the advantage—if it is an advantage—of novelty. From 4 p.m to 6, sitting on a cold iron bedstead, looking blankly at the miserable hunk of bread and the unusable water-butt, hearing gates clang at intervals with a jar that goes through you, feeling cold and yet stifled with the oppressive atmosphere, the prisoner is not distinctly joyful. But about five o'clock the officer in charge unlocks the gate again, and gruffly directs the prisoner to take in his bed, which is deposited in the day-time in the centre of the corridor. He does so, but must not use it, as the printed notice hanging on the wall tells him. This notice must have been drawn up by a genius. It begins by saying that "Prisoners are forbidden to break the rules of the Gaol," but as the rules are in a book stowed away somewhere in the Superintendent's office, entirely inaccessible to the parties for whose behoof they were made, the warning loses a good deal of its point. The notice proceeds to forbid talking, laughing, insolence, *gambling* (now, what does the *Daily Rumour* say?) and any other forms of lifting the safety-valve. The man who could stay in gaol a month without fracturing those commandments pretty badly deserves to be let out and compelled to wear the halo of a C.M.G.

By 5.30 every cell is locked, and a few minutes later our friend hears a distant sound of clanking locks, and hears the loud order from the entrance to the corridor of "'tention, Europeans; *hei san, hei ho!*" which last bit, meaning "get up and stand properly," is for the benefit of the Chinese inmates. The night-duty officers come hurrying around, yanking all the big padlocks in succession to see that they are secure, while the head turnkey who brings up the rear flashes his lamp on the motionless figure which he sees standing, hands by his sides, at each gate, and growls "'aul out!" Doesn't our *protégé* wish they only were "all out." However, he pulls out the telescopic truckle-bed to its full length—some six feet—and spreads out the mattress. Those mattresses are curiosities. They are stuffed with slabs of granite—damp granite; and are about two feet broad, so that an unquiet sleeper stands a two-to-one chance of wakening up on the floor after turning over in his sleep. The pillow is constructed on the same luxurious lines. It is about an inch—or maybe an inch and a half—thick; and contains bamboo splinters, to sweeten repose. But one can't expect feather-beds and eider-down pillows in there, and after all, the three blankets provided are not at all bad. So, turning-in ere yet the outside world has begun to think of dinner, No.—— tries to "steep his senses in forgetfulness" for the next twelve hours. He finds it difficult for a while. Not far away he hears a succession of amateur vocalists eternally practising scales—he follows with anxiety their never-ending efforts to reach the unattainable top-note, and mutters a malediction on them as they fail; a Chinese street-musician paces beneath the wall at a funereal gait, extracting agonising shrieks from his *Auchlin*; every half-hour the gates which guard the staircases swing open as the officer comes his rounds;—how *can* a man sleep under the circumstances? He doesn't.

With the Chinese the arrangements have been made slightly different. For lack of cell-accommodation—concerning which we hear official complaints and reports every now and then—they are stowed away in larger cells, in batches of five, or even seven, and it must get pretty "high" in summer, since they often have only about a couple of hundred cubic feet of air-space each—and most of that is overhead. They are located in other corridors to the one in which is our representative European. With a couple of blankets each, and a cornice in the flooring for a pillow, they rub along very comfortably—at any rate they can talk to each other, if only in undertones. But they mustn't be caught, if the officer is strict, or in an ill-humor, or there is certain to be trouble. Time after time the sharp "Mo kong"—"don't talk"—echoes through the dimly-lighted corridors, as a turnkey hears the hum of voices. If the noise still continues, and he can trace it to the cell where the offenders are, he asks "who is talking?" Nobody answers, of course. Then he asks who is the senior prisoner, *i.e.*, the longest sentenced. Having ascertained that fact, the turnkey gives him the option of giving the number of the man that was speaking, or of being reported himself. That generally has the desired effect, though sometimes, if the

"senior" sees a chance of ultimate benefit to himself by keeping mum, he will not tell.

III.

"But that I am forbid
To tell the secrets of my prison-house,
I could a tale unfold"

Hamlet.

"Early to bed, and early to rise" is the motto in the Gaol, and at 5.45 a.m. little bells at the entrance to each corridor ring out the imperative order to get up. On a cold morning in winter, when the stars have not yet disappeared, and the cell is as dark as Erebus, getting-up is a trial. Dressing has to be hurried through, for the toilet of the cell remains to be made. The granite-slab mattress is rolled up, and the blankets must then be folded nearly as neatly as a handkerchief—no easy task in the dark, especially if one hasn't been a soldier, and learnt how it is done. At six o'clock the cell-gate is opened, and the bedding replaced in the centre of the corridor. On the first morning the prisoner does not go down to work, but takes a little walking exercise round a gallery to give him an appetite for breakfast, which is served at 6 30. It is not too rich for the most rebellious digestion; it consists of a hunk of bread and a cloudy tin can full of "tea." They say the Chinese prisoners get worse "tea" than foreign prisoners, but I find it difficult to realise anything more remote from the decoction as we know it. Of course it isn't sweetened—it is sufficient, surely, that it is something "wet and warm." From breakfast-time the over-fed *detenue* sits doing nothing again until about 9.30, when he is sent round to the corridor used as a hospital, to be examined by the Doctor to see if he is fit for hard labor. He sees the crowd of sick, lame, and lazy who are waiting to be treated, and a most repulsive lot they look. Some seem almost leprous, others are decrepit, one or two will be hobbling about waiting for the effects of the last flogging to evaporate. And doesn't the place smell! Well, by-and-bye the Doctor arrives, directs the treatment of the afflicted, scarifies the malingerers, grants a little extra or better food to those who have lost over ten pounds in weight, and clears the deck for the new-comers. Our friend has his chest sounded, his diaphragm gently punched, or something of that sort, and, being found sound in wind and limb, is certified as eligible for the healthy and exciting diversion of shot-drill and oakum-picking.

His next introduction is to the European yard. Here he finds about a score of prisoners, many of them belonging to the army and navy, and the rest consisting mainly of colored murderers and Portuguese embezzlers. There are other European prisoners in gaol whom he does not see there—men who by good conduct or favour have gained the privilege of working in the printing office, or the tailors', carpenters', or book-binders' shops. Then again men committed for seven or fourteen days, or detained as "destitutes," or the weaker individuals who are unfit for hard labour, are not seen there, being up in their cells during the day. Our friend drops into the rut right away, as the preparations for enabling him to do so are easily made. Hard labour means oakum and shot *ad lib. ad nauseam*. Everybody knows what oakum is, but how it is made is not so generally known. In the first place an old cable or rope of any sort is chopped up into six-inch lengths, which are made up into little bundles of 12 or 24 ounces, "oakum weight." I say "oakum weight" because 12 ounces, weighed by that standard, according to my experience, equal about 15 ounces of food; but perhaps that is because the man who weighs the rope out isn't so precise as the caterer. Each prisoner is supplied with a tiny sail-cloth apron, to put on his right knee and protect the valuable serge continuations; and a loop of string, which he puts round his foot and left knee, to hold a little wire hook in position. Then he takes one of the sections of rope and unscrews the strands until they are separated. I made an average calculation as to the number there are in the ordinary three-inch rope, say; I forget the number now, but it is astonishing what a lot there are. Then he takes each strand, rolls it on the apron to untwist it, and "fiddles" it through the wire-hook to complete the loosening. The two operations make the slender shred become a big loose hank of hemp, which has then to be dissected until it becomes a little heap of tow, not much coarser than a red-headed woman's wig, if the simile is permissible. It is not a laborious task, but abominably monotonous—shred, shred, shred, all the time. And when it is all done it is only worth about five cents a pound! After half an hour at that "five bells" will be heard, and all the prisoners drop their oakum to go to shot-drill. Under a penthouse in the yard, arranged in the form of a hollow square, are a number of blocks of wood, some six inches high and four feet apart, with a hollow in the top in which rests a 16 lb. cannon-ball. Each man stands erect behind a block, and at a signal, given by one of the gang clapping his hands, they all stoop, lift the shot breast-high in one palm (the other supporting it beneath) advance two paces to the next block, put the shot down without noise, and straighten themselves again, to rest for two or three seconds. From 7 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., six times a minute for that and every alternate half-hour, except between 11 and 12 o'clock, that round is mechanically paced by the squad at their Sisyphean labor. Eleven o'clock is the dinner-hour. Three or four trestle-tables, each garnished with a wooden salt-cellar, are located in an angle of the wall, and at these, sitting on forms whose narrowness and hardness is unequalled in my experience, the men sit and devour their scanty fare as though they were eating against time—"forty feeding like one, all silent and all damned." The diet I shall deal with later on. "Dinner" over, the backward ones—the newcomers with blistered fingers—fill up the rest of the hour pulling their oakum still finer, whilst the more expert sit and gaze at the sky, or at the tops of the houses visible over the high walls. At twelve the weary round is resumed, until, at 4.30, a bead turnkey, with minions bearing scales, weighs the picked oakum to see if all that was given out is returned. If an ounce or two is unpicked he stops the delinquent's supper—he can do so even if it is not fine enough. Stuff, which is worth a few cents a pound! But it is generally satisfactory, and everybody is dismissed to wash and exercise—if the eight half-hours of shot-lifting haven't been exercise enough. At 5.45 *supper is served*, such as it is, and half an hour's grace is given afterwards for the men to walk round the yard and stretch their legs. A more depressing sight than half-a-score gray-clad pedestrians following each other round the forty-pace ring I can scarcely conceive. About 6.15 another head-turnkey calls the roll, and dismisses the men to their cells. As they defile up to their corridors they are met by half-a-dozen officers, who search them carefully or superficially, according to the probabilities of their having tobacco—or bread to exchange for that luxury—concealed in their clothes. Having passed this ordeal they go to their cells, taking in their beds, and (if they are sufficiently well-educated to do so) read until the light fails, which it generally does very soon after *five*. Then one walks, or sits contemplatively, until six, and bed-time.

IIII.

As I mentioned in a foregoing instalment of this lugubrious record, a proportion of the European prisoners find other employment than "shot-and-oakum," and it strikes one very curiously to see what airs of superiority the more favored ones among these assume. The tailoring is presided over by an African brother, whose dusky bride will await him for many a long year to come; the chief cook is—though it may sound paradoxical—a very decent young murderer; the book-binding is supervised by a quiet young man for whose incarceration the share-gambling mania of 1889 is to blame; whilst the printing-office is "run" by a couple of other unfortunates. All the departments have a few Chinese pirates or murderers—at any rate very long-sentence men—as workmen, and very fair work is turned out, much to the detriment of the honest tradesmen outside. The aristocratic coterie at the Hongkong Club save a few dollars by having their library-books bound by felons, instead of rate-paying craftsmen; a goodly number of high government servants find it economical to have their half-soling done by convict labor, in preference to paying Sun Hing an extra twenty-five cents; and on occasion I have seen gentlemen whose chair and four coolies were waiting outside come in to order a renewal of the domestic mop, or replace the family scrubbing-brushes, with possibly-laudable economy. It might interest those gentlemen to know that at least one prisoner watched the pettifogging transactions with a good deal of contempt.

Several classes of prisoners, as I have said, are not sent to the European yard. Among them are the "destitutes,"—generally sailors without money or work who have been sent to gaol (in their case called "the House of Detention," but then "a rose by any other name," &c.) for a few days until a captain can be found to take them. That is the head and front of their offending, but there is no doubt that they are worse off than any of the less deserving wretches whose lot they share. They work just as hard as if they had picked a pocket, they get the poorest class of food, they are regarded by the majority of the officers (of whom more anon) as pariahs, and they pass 23 out of every 24 hours in their cells, praying for the worst "blue-nosed barque" that ever floated to come along. Men on "half-task," wenklings who are exempted from shot-drill on account of physical infirmity; offenders who are set to pick double the amount of oakum served out to those in the yard—all these stay in their cells the day through, silently and drearily getting through their tasks, looking forward only to the morning and evening half-hour of exercise in the open air.

On Sundays the men—whose religion is broadly defined by their being Catholics or Protestants—go to church. It is held in the central tower, on the floor above the hall. The morning service is devoted to the Catholic portion, and is conducted by Fathers Vigano or Burghignoli as a rule. Chinese Catholic priests also visit any native converts to Christianity that may have got inside, and preach to them both publicly and privately. The Chinaman who was sentenced to death a little while ago embraced Christianity before being reprieved, but I heard that afterwards he perverted, the necessity having passed, as he thought probably. In the afternoon the Colonial Chaplain holds a short service for Protestants. There is no option about attending unless you are sick—indeed you go to chapel whether the reverend gentleman comes or not. A portion of the Litany is read, then a Psalm, then a five-minute exhortation which I am afraid is entirely wasted, judging from the observations subsequently muttered in my hearing. A hymn follows, very half-hearted for want of someone to lead on the (in my time) unused harmonium, and then the chaplain bows benignantly and departs, leaving the pew-openers in uniform to see the congregation out and send them off to supper.

The Chinese, who outnumber the Europeans twenty times over, are principally kept on the ordinary hard labor. A few are kept working in couples, carrying a gobi stone slung on a bamboo for each alternate half-hour without cessation instead of keeping the cannon-ball circulating, but this is to some degree a punishment for old offenders, I believe. A considerable number do the gaol washing, as all the inmates have clean clothing every week. A few—the oldest or best-conducted hands in the various industrial departments—get a cent a day granted them, a privilege shared by one or two Europeans, but very few have acquired wealth to a burdensome degree, as the maximum they may earn against the time they are discharged is $10 or $12.

In the matter of cleanliness there are not many grounds for complaint. In several of the yards an angle of the wall is built up so as to make a bath holding two or three hundred gallons of water, and after work is done the men are at liberty to scrub themselves as much as they please, a privilege taken full advantage of in the hot weather, although in winter the tub is patronised by very few. For the Europeans a shower bath is even provided. They also have their weekly shave, the Chinese scraping each others' heads turn and turn about with the curious Celestial razors. Hair-cutting is not such a bugbear as it is alleged to be in home prisons; after the first scalping in the reception-room the hair is usually allowed to reach a decent length, and there is no objection raised to one's retaining his beard or moustache. One individual, indeed, used to make his youthfully dark and glossy by surreptitious applications of hair-dye! until it was discovered.

Perhaps it will be appropriate, in this connection, to describe the different styles of diet provided. European prisoners, during their first six months, if their sentence is longer than that—or during their whole term if it is shorter—are put on "penal diet." From Monday morning they work and fare like any other prisoner, getting a roll and a tin of skilly for breakfast; half-a-pound of boiled buffalo meat, with a slab of cement, euphemistically termed suet pudding, three days each week, and some potatoes in their jackets on three other days with a dish of common boiled rice, for dinner; and more bread and skilly for supper. Skilly, innocent reader, is (I was told, for I could never analyse it) barley and water boiled into a stiff mass; but both smell and taste make any but a very hungry man regard it as best fitted to be given to an enemy. As a favor it may be exchanged by the Doctor for a pint of very weak cocoa. On Saturdays and Sundays the penal diet men do no work, but sit nearly all day in their cells, praying for Monday. The roll and skilly form their principal sustenance on those two days, "dinner" being represented by a dish of peculiarly uneatable rice, flavored, if desired, with equally offensive-looking salt. Frequent complaints by the prisoners, made at last directly to the head of affairs in this colony at the time, are likely to cause an alteration shortly, I understand; it is high time! The full diet men get the buffalo rations six days a week, and on Sunday a fetid fish-curry for dinner—the other meals never alter. If a penal diet man has lost ten pounds in weight—and most men do lose a lot during the first few months—he will get full diet. If he is unwell, but not so ill as to need to go to hospital, he may get other allowances, whilst if actually laid up under medical treatment he gets anything in reason and season if the Doctor considers it necessary. Only he can't eat it then, as a rule—and besides, if a man is serving twelve months or more, and so comes under the "mark system," he prefers keeping at work, and shortening his time as much as possible, to passing a longer period in the very questionable luxury of lying in an evil-smelling ward, surrounded by deformed and crippled natives of the most repulsive type.

The Chinese "chow" is, without doubt, infinitely better than the European, when compared with what the two races get outside. It can scarcely be regarded as punishment for a miserable mendicant or a wretched coolie to get rice and fish once a day—I am not sure, now, that it isn't twice—and a dish of hot appetising congee at twelve o'clock. Still it is only fair to add that the "staff of life" resembles coarse sand much more than the glistening grain one sees the hawkers vending in the streets.

The punishment diet needs no description—it is simply bread and water (from the "bath-tub" already described) for Europeans, and plain rice, in limited quantities, for Chinese. Which leads me to the general subject of prison offences and punishments—but that is another story, to be stated hereafter.

(To be continued.)

"THE CONTRABANDISTA" AT THE THEATRE ROYAL.

For the past fourteen years the community of this colony have been mainly indebted to the members of the Choral Society for amusement in the operatic and musical line generally during the winter months. Prior to 1877 the efforts of the Society were confined to strictly musical work, its public performances consisting of concerts with selections from oratorios and operas, and occasional cantatas, and it is no reflection on anybody living or dead to say that these performances were almost invariably of a lukewarm and half-hearted character, which aroused but little interest and were received with that apathetic indifference which is invariably displayed at local concerts, even when there is such a world-renowned vocalist as Madame Patey as a special attraction. The musical talent of the Choral Society has never within living memory attained a particularly elevated standard—a standard that would enable its members to successfully grapple with and do fair justice to such classical productions as oratorio or high-class legitimate opera. No doubt its ranks have numbered many clever and accomplished musicians, but looking back through the vista of long years we can remember only about half-a-dozen who had any pretensions as solo vocalists to appear before a public audience in such master-pieces as "The Messiah," "Stabat Mater," "Elijah" etc., or even in the modern dramatic compositions of Verdi, Bellini, Rossini and other masters of the Italian school. It was in 1877 if we remember rightly, that the then president of the Society, Mr. J. B. Coughtrie, accurately recognising the actual situation, diverted the efforts of the members into a fresh channel by introducing as a study the latest production in fashionable comic opera. The result of this new departure was a most successful performance of "Trial by Jury," the first of the celebrated Gilbert and Sullivan series, at the Lusitano Theatre, and this was followed in succeeding years at the City Hall by "Pinafore," "The Sorcerer," "The Pirates of Penzance," "Iolanthe" and "The Gondoliers," the last named being produced only two months ago. Comic opera may not be quite the proper scope of a choral society, and we can imagine that Sullivan's music may fail to satisfy the high-toned aspirations of would-be classical vocalists like the gentleman who recently aired his views in our morning contemporary; but we do know that it has proved a great attraction to the Hongkong public and has been the means of preventing the Choral Society from collapsing years ago.

Last Saturday night the Society presented a novelty to this colony in the shape of Burnand and Sullivan's "Contrabandista," the Theatre Royal being crowded by a large and appreciative audience which included His Excellency the Governor and Lady des Vœux, Major-General Digby Barker, and other leading residents. "The Contrabandista," which was originally produced at St. George's Hall, London, in December 1867, can scarcely be described as a brilliant production, although it is not without special merits. It was fairly popular when first played in London, and on several occasions in the early seventies the present writer witnessed performances at the Park and Gaiety Theatres; but no doubt its popularity was overshadowed by the far more brilliant series of productions in which Gilbert and Sullivan collaborated. "The Contrabandista" is constructed on very much the same lines as Gilbert's famous travesties, and it very probably suggested the leading idea in "The Pirates of Penzance"; but the ponderous attempts to be funny of the present Editor of *Punch* are quite a different article to the trenchant witticisms and humorous devices of his more accomplished rival. What serves for a plot in "The Contrabandista" requires a great deal of finding, and after you have found it, there is very little room for descriptive writing. The scene is laid in the mountains in Spain, and the audience are introduced to a robber's haunt, where we find *Inez*, Queen of the *ladrones*, supposed to be in mourning for her husband, who has met his fate at the hands of *Count Vasquez*, a captain in the Spanish Guards. *Rita*, the betrothed of the *Count*, is a captive and held to ransom, but as this couple have really nothing to do with the argument it is useless to follow their fortunes. *Sancho* and *José*, the first robbers of the gang, are both in love with the Queen, and as the question as to which should succeed the defunct chief in that lady's affections and in command of the band had ended in a dead-heat on being put to the vote, the office of captain was held in abeyance until chance threw some stranger in the way, who, according to precedent and the law of the *ladrones*, must become the chief and marry *Inez*. This opens the way for the appearance of the stranger in the person of *Mr. Grigg*, a Cockney tourist, who is studying art, photographic art, in Spain. He falls into the hands of the *ladrones*, and becomes their chief and the betrothed of the Queen. And that is about all we need relate. After a variety of incidents more or less amusing, including a Spanish dance, the *cachucha*, which was most admirably performed by Mesdames Groundwater, A. More, and H. Humphreys, and Miss Kate Aitken, and what were described in the advertisement as "four new figures," the robbers are surprised by soldiers, *Rita* and *Griggs* are rescued, and all ends well, the *ladrones of course* being pardoned by special decree. The action of the opera runs very smoothly in the first act, but drags heavily at last, and even Sullivan's generally tuneful musical numbers fail to make it "go" with the necessary dash to ensure unqualified success.

However, it gives us pleasure to be able to speak favorably of the production of "The Contrabandista" by the members of the Choral Society. Taken all round the piece was effectively handled, and the success achieved reflects great credit on the management. A better stage set than "The Robbers' Haunt" has seldom if ever been seen on the Hongkong stage, and for this, we believe, honors are divided between that enthusiastic follower of Thespis, Mr. Jas. B. Coughtrie, and the veteran Mr. Baptista. The opera was most picturesquely dressed, but two or three of the ferocious *ladrones* considerably spoiled effect by 'making up pretty.' It is a crying fault with amateur "supers," especially those who are not strikingly beautiful in everyday life, to fret their weary hour on the stage disguised as Adonises; and as Spanish robbers are not usually built that way, the stage manager should cast a watchful eye over the rank and file under his command. The desire to look too utterly lovely may perhaps be excusable as a tribute to that unconscious feeling of vanity which all humankind possesses to a greater or lesser degree, but it is not play-acting, and it is not good taste in a wooden-headed and generally wooden "super," who is supposed to be a ferocious brigand, to eclipse the lily and vie with the rose in a personal loveliness that is so conspicuously the product of rouge and grease paint. We may feel disposed to name the male society beauties of "The Robbers' Haunt" the next time we are called upon to criticise. Apart from this little defect—to which we would not have thought it worth while to direct attention but for the large increase of the "pretty ones" since the performance of "The Gondoliers"—the members of both sexes who appeared as robbers, soldiers, peasants, etc., did excellent work and can honestly claim no small share in the victory won. In the choruses they sang well, and the grouping in the various tableaux was capitally done. We have already referred to the enthusiastic reception accorded to the graceful and effective dancing of the *cachucha*, but consider it necessary to add a special word of praise to the far-sighted gentleman, with whose identity we are not acquainted, for substituting this lively measure instead of the backboneless *bolero*, a sort of tame, third-class waltz boiled down, which was the Terpsichorean rival danced in the original production before the sprightly and mettlesome of the defunct *Ferdinand de Roxas*.

Now for a few words about the principals, and not to give offence in the matter of precedence to the ultra-sensitive—and what budding amateur can claim exemption from that category—we will take them in the order they appear on the programme. Mr. George Lammert was a charming *Vasques* so far as "look-see pidgin" went, but he was too young and altogether too beautiful for the brave and hardy Captain of the Spanish Guard who "knocked out" the redoubtable and bloodthirsty Ferdinand de Roxas in the first round. Mr. Holliday might have done it, if in his 1868 form, but the veriest novice would have laid long odds on the "pet of the Ladrones" sending Saturday night's *Count Vasques* to sleep in about the shortest time on record. And captains in the Spanish Guard don't as a rule look like boys of 18, as we can testify from experience. It is with grief we say it, but Mr G. P. Lammert is not much of an actor; what he might do if he tried is a matter of uncertainty, and as he didn't try on Saturday the reserve reserves judgment. Mr. Lammert, indifferent exponent of the histrionic art as he certainly is, can sing to some purpose, and in that department he fairly excelled himself, the *aria* "Wake, gentle maiden" at the opening of the second act being one of the gems of the entire representation. It was quite a treat to welcome back to the scene of his former successes that able and experienced actor, Mr. C. J. Holliday. A good many years have elapsed since this gentleman last trod the boards of the City Hall, but it was quickly apparent that he had been keeping his hand in in other climes. Mr. Holliday is an admirable actor, in *Sancho* he had a part that suited him down to the ground, and he made the most of it. His make-up and general *tout ensemble*, his thorough appreciation of the burlesque edition of a Spanish *ladrone*, his irresistible laugh and incessant 'playing-up' to his colleagues, were admirable in every way, and he richly deserved the hearty encore elicited by his most powerful rendering of a song which was judiciously introduced—at all events it is not in the original edition—and in which he told the audience what he would do if he were "Captain of the Band." Mr. Holliday has a powerful bass voice, and he sang splendidly. Mr. R. H. Smythe has probably had a limited experience on the stage, but withal he tried very hard to give an adequate impersonation of the first-robber *José*, and in our opinion is entitled to very cordial commendation. He was no doubt a trifle stiff and angular in his movements; but these drawbacks are inseparable from the novice, and Mr. Smythe acted with both spirit and intelligence, and his very pleasant baritone voice was quite equal to the musical requirements of his part. The *Mr. Grigg* of Mr. Lightwood shared with Mr. Holliday's *Sancho* the highest honors of the representation. This clever comedian has never appeared to better advantage, indeed it is doubtful if he has ever played so well. Mr. Lightwood, as was only to be expected, conceived the character of the Cockney tourist to the life, and it was a true picture he presented on the stage—of course making allowance for the difference between real life and operatic extravaganza. In appearance, manner, gesture, facial expression—in fact, in everything necessary for the effective carrying out of his ideal, Mr. Lightwood left nothing for carping critics to find fault with. Hongkong's leading comedian is not a flyer in the singing line, although a born musician, but his wonderfully energetic rendering of the amusing "I say to myself, my dear friend Grigg" fairly broke up the audience, and an *encore* was determinedly insisted on. In the final act we think Mr. Lightwood was a trifle too much in evidence, but it must be confessed that it is very difficult to draw the line as to where comic opera ends and burlesque commences. Mr. E. J. Boards, who appeared as the *Sergeant* of the Guard, made his *début* in a speaking part, if we mistake not. If our surmise is inaccurate we are extremely sorry—for Mr. Boards. Will the Stage Manager oblige us by instructing this gentleman, who apparently means well and no doubt did his best, how to speak and how to stand on the stage? The *Sergeant's* ridiculous attitudes made the final scene of the opera well nigh ridiculous.

The leading ladies in the cast were sadly overweighted, both musically and histrionically. It was a plucky undertaking of a novice like Miss Lammert to grapple with such a trying part as *Rita*, and she deserves every credit for having done so well under extreme difficulties. But no amount of latent talent or inherent love of art can atone for lack of practical stage experience, and we are reluctantly compelled to state that the youthful *Rita's* efforts were crude and painfully amateurish. Of course nothing else could have been reasonably expected, and under all circumstances Miss Lammert's *début* in a character requiring the experience of an old stager for its adequate delineation must be set down as extremely gratifying and promising for the future. In the duet with *Vasques* "A guard by night," *Rita* sang very nicely, and for the solo "He will return" she was cordially applauded. The *Ines* of Mrs. Gordon proved far below expectations, and in many respects was bitterly disappointing. She looked the Queen of the Ladrones to the life, she enunciated her lines clearly and with conspicuous intelligence, but her *Ines* was only a lay figure, which lacked the animation of the hot-blooded Spanish virago supposed to be vowing vengence on the slayer of her husband and plotting murder on every side. It has in justice to be remembered that this is only Mrs. Gordon's second appearance on the lyric stage, and therefore it would be manifestly unfair to expect from her the matured skill and stage training of the experienced actress; but still, remembering how admirably she played as the *Queen of the Fairies* in "Iolanthe," on Saturday night were certainly justified. In her solo, "Let others seek the peaceful plain," the lady was most enthusiastically applauded and an *encore* demanded, but the effort, critically and comparatively viewed, was only partially successful. At times some reminiscences of the organ-like tones of the erstwhile purest contralto voice this colony has ever heard from the lips of an amateur were pleasingly evident, but they quickly vanished, whilst in her upper register the singer was painfully weak. Mrs. Gordon's impersonation, if not artistically meritorious was at least generally popular, and that means a great deal.

Too much praise could scarcely be awarded to Mr. Jas. Orange, the musical director of the Society, who conducted throughout with distinguished ability, and to this gentleman and to Mr. E. W. Mitchell, the hard-working, painstaking, and experienced stage manager, a very large share of the success attending the representation is undoubtedly due. Signor Cattaneo ably presided at the piano, and was assisted by an excellent orchestra which included some of the leading instrumentalists of the colony, both civil and military. The arrangements in front of the house, thanks to the efforts of Mr. R. Lyall, the hon. secretary of the Society, left nothing to be desired, and the performance ran smoothly throughout, without a single hitch.

THE MANILA RAILWAY.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

After many postponements the first section of the Manila to Dagupan Railway, about 40 miles in length, was opened on the 24th of last month. This event had been looked forward to since last December, when the inaugural ceremony was fixed for Xmas Eve. The Managers, however, were unable to open the line at that date, as the Governor-General's signature was wanting to the decree authorising the opening, and as his Excellency was on a tour to the Southern Islands his sign manual could not be obtained, hence the delay. It was then arranged that the opening should take place on the 23rd of January, (St. Alfonso's day) and everything was done so that the ceremony should come off with the greatest amount of *éclat* possible. Triumphal arches were erected, the station buildings adorned with flags and bunting, refreshments ordered, and not the smallest detail was left unfinished—even medals were struck in commemoration of the opening of the first Philippine Railway; but the Managers and public were doomed to disappointment, the inauguration could not be authorised as the Governor-General refused to grant the permission, for reasons he gave some months later. So the triumphal arches had to be taken down again, the stations stripped of all their flags and bunting, and finally the four gold medals (intended to be presented to the Queen of Spain, the Prime Minister, the Governor-General of the Philippines, and the Archbishop), the fifty silver and the hundred and fifty copper ones (for the petty Government officials and the Railway Co.'s employés) had to be returned to the engraver, who will in all probability consign them to the melting pot, as the inscription mentioning the date of opening fixes the 23rd January, whereas the line was opened three months later. In reality the line could have been opened in December for passenger traffic, had it not been for the usual pig-headedness and obstinacy which generally are striking features among Spanish officials, and more particularly so with the present "powers that be" in the Philippines. As the authorisation for the opening was not forthcoming, and seemed to be as far off as ever, the Managers of the Railway were naturally indignant, and sent in a very strong petition to the Public Works Department, under whose control the line is placed, and that body in its turn sent it to some other illustrious body, and so on, until the directly responsible authorities were compelled to give some kind of excuse why they could not advise the Governor-General to sanction the opening of the line. After much delay, however, a reply did come, and that reply proved to the Managers how very slight their knowledge of diplomacy was. The two principal reasons of the Manila Government not granting the permission to open were that they acquired the goods as well as passenger traffic to be started at the same time, and as the goods' traffic was considered of far more importance than carrying passengers, and as the Railway Manager at that time was only able to open the line for passengers, the authorities could not really see their way to accede to the Company's petition to open business until they were in a position to transport merchandise. Anyone having the slightest knowledge at all of the country between Manila and Bagbag, (the terminus station of the section opened) knows that all the villages along the line between Manila and Bagbag, are simply composed of a few *Nipa* huts, and (of course) a church, and no goods' traffic can be expected for some time to come. It was in vain that this was explained to the authorities; they either would or could not see it, and the Company had to wait until the covered goods sheds were finished—the only impediments to the goods' traffic being started. Another official objection was to the engine-drivers. The authorities complained that those employed by the Company did not hold the proper certificates, showing that they were competent to act in that capacity. As the only engineer's certificates obtainable in the Philippines were those granted to engineers of local steamers, and no railway having ever been constructed in the Philippines before, how could the engine-drivers be expected to hold certificates of competency? The engine-drivers who were employed had all been in charge of locomotives whilst the line was being constructed during the previous two years, and had undergone an examination by one of the Company's locomotive superintendents before they had been allowed to take charge of even a small contractor's loco., and were perhaps even more fitted for the work than the other Spanish drivers whom the Company had to cable for, in order to give the authorities no more ground for complaint.

At last, at 11 a.m. on the 23rd March, the Resident Engineer visited the Governor-General to again ask for his petition to be granted, having complied with all that had been asked of him. He was more fortunate this time than he had been previously, and at noon he returned with the "decree" authorising the inauguration, and no time was lost in making preparations for the opening of the line, which was fixed to take place at 4 o'clock the following afternoon. The provisional station at Manila and all the roadside stations were re-decorated with flags, banners and flowers; hundreds of men worked all through the night to have everything ready for the following day; a triumphal arch of bamboo canes, covered with white paper and having a large placard on top with the inscription *Viva España*, was erected at the entrance of the station; a small altar was erected on the station platform, and it was here the Archbishop was to conduct the service which the benediction of the inaugural engine entailed, for in the Philippines, no *fête* is complete without images of saints, a priest, flags, bunting, and a band. At 3.30 the Archbishop, accompanied by his usual retenue of acolytes carrying his "vestments" (or, to use the Spanish phrase, "pontifical ornaments") came. He could not commence business until the arrival of the Governor-General, but at about 4.30, the band at the entrance struck up the *Marcha Real* or Spanish National hymn, and this announced the arrival of his Excellency, who is a very small, thin, pale-faced man. He was dressed in full uniform for the occasion—white pants, a very much frayed black frock coat (which seemed about five times too large for him) covered with an apology for gold lace, a sword by his side, which without exaggeration was almost as long as himself, and as he walked solemnly down the Station platform by the side of the Vice-Governor, a very tall and stout party, he presented a very ludicrous appearance. Your correspondent, who was behind his Excellency whilst the ceremony of blessing the enterprise was proceeding, could not help noticing that his collar and washerman had been strangers for some time. After the usual exchange of compliments between the Archbishop and the Governor-General, the former proceeded to don his mitre and vestments, and after reciting a few Latin prayers, he took up a kind of pepper-box arrangement containing the holy water, stepped forward to the edge of the platform, and sprinkled the engine with the contents, thus ending the ceremony of blessing the line.

After this, those who had been asked to take part in the ceremonial, were invited to take a trip as far as Bagbag; the Governor-General and Archbishop stepped into the saloon carriage which was awaiting them, and amidst much cheering, explosion of crackers and music (?), the engine steamed out of Manila. The train stopped at the eight roadside stations between Manila and Bagbag, where the various priests and Gobernadorcillos came to pay their respects to the travellers. As the Archbishop had only arrived a very short time previously in the Philippines, there was naturally a great deal of curiosity and excitement on the part of the natives, to see him. As is well known, the Archbishop of Manila and the priesthood have equal, if not more, authority over the natives than the Governor-General himself, and I may mention, as an illustration of the reverence, combined with awe and fanaticism, in which the prelate is held by them, that when we arrived at the station of Guiguinto the crowd, on seeing him from the station-yard, immediately went down on their knees, and remained in that position until he left. At another station, that of Meycauayan, the village flag, a very dirty piece of cloth of colours undefinable, and tied by two ends to a bamboo, was brought in, in order to receive a blessing from St. Peter's representative, which was accorded with all the solemnity due to the occasion, much to the delight of the old *Gobernadorcillo*, or "petty governor of the village", a most important office in the Philippines and of whom I shall give a brief description. The *Gobernadorcillo* must be a native, have a slight knowledge of the Spanish language, and must be able to read and write. His principal functions are those of tax-collector, chief constable, chief of the Fire Brigade and Chief Justice of his village, and his presence at all Church processions and festivals is essential. His official uniform consists of trousers of any colour, a white shirt, which must be worn *over* his trousers, and a black Eton jacket. Boots or shoes are of no consequence, but if he can afford it, a white "long-sleever" hat is preferable, although there are no special rules for this. A silver-headed cane, with a silken cord attached, is indispensable. His *tenientes*, or lieutenants, wear the same uniform, with the exception that the coat must be white and the silver-headed cane is not *de rigeur*. These men, however, are those who yearly replenish the Governor's coffers by the collection of the money for what is called the *Cedula Personal*, a sort of income tax which everyone residing in the Philippines must pay or break stones on the roads for a month or longer, according to what the *Gobernadorcillo* directs.

It is to be hoped that now the engines and line and rolling stock have been "blessed" a repetition of the accident that happened a few months ago will not occur. A workman's train returning home with 700 navvies ran into a "*Carabao*," or water buffalo, killing eight persons outright and maiming about twenty others for life. It is very probable that had the engine been placed before the trucks, and not behind, this accident could have been avoided; but as the night was very dark, the driver could not see that the line was obstructed by stray beasts of burden, Geordie Stephenson's pregnant remark about the "coo" was here fully illustrated, but unfortunately in this instance the "coo" was not the only party things were bad for. One of the victims was a woman, who when picked out of the *débris*, was found to be quite dead, whilst her baby, which she tightly clasped in her arms, was unhurt.

The *Filipinos* can now boast of a Railway which only a few years ago they despaired of ever having, on account of the unanimous decision of that wise body called "*La Sociedad de los Amigos del País*,"—"Friends of the country," forsooth!—that a railway was impossible owing to the frequent earthquakes.

The construction of the Railway was commenced in 1888; the line is about 200 kilometers in length. The main difficulties in the construction were the number of large bridges required, one bridge especially costing the Company a lot of time and money. When all the cylinders (ten in all) had been sunk, and the girders were being placed in position, it was found that the cylinders had gone down much further into the bed of the river than contemplated, and after again testing them, the idea of having a cylinder bridge had to be abandoned, and the cylinders were hauled up again, as no satisfactory foundation could be obtained. The engineers now intend constructing a safer bridge by the use of caissons and granite piers. Slow but sure progress is being made towards the completion of the line, and it is hoped that as far as Tarlac, about halfway to Dagupan, will be opened to the public next September. It is expected that the whole line will be finished by next January. The recent typhoons caused a vast deal of damage; a considerable quantity of embankment was washed away and a bridge under construction over the Rio Agno in Bayambang, near Dagupan, was completely destroyed. From £50,000 to £70,000 is the sum estimated to finish the whole line.

AN INTERESTING CASE TO EXPORTERS.

At the Police Court yesterday morning Chan Wan Lai, master of the Tak Kee shop, Bonham Strand, was charged by Mr. Hastings, Superintendent of Imports and Exports, with that, having a permit to remove a chest of Patna opium from Messrs. Belilios and Co.'s godowns, Lyndhurst Terrace, to his premises in Bonham Strand, the opium was not at his premises when searched.

Mr. Caldwell, of Messrs. Caldwell and Wilkinson, defended.

Mr. Hastings said he visited the defendant's premises on Friday last, and asked to see his stock of opium. One chest of Patna opium was missing. The defendant was present, and upon being questioned by witness he at first said it had been exported to Pakhoi. Witness told him that was illegal, and then he said he had sent it to the Opium Farmer.

Luis D'Almeida, first clerk at the Imports and Exports office, gave similar evidence.

Mr. Caldwell, for the defence, submitted that the permit could only be looked at, and not the application, and that the opium was only to be in the custody of Tak Kee and, not necessarily on the premises in Bonham Strand. The defendant did not know where the opium was, as it *had* been removed it.

His Worship remanded the case till Saturday, allowing defendant bail in one surety of $500.

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LOCAL AND GENERAL.

WONG CHEONG, who was arrested by Inspector Corcoran at Shaukiwan on the 23rd March last, with being concerned in the *Namoa* piracy, was again remanded by Mr. Wise on the 20th inst. for another week. Chang Sing-U, who was arrested on the 6th inst., on a similar charge, was also remanded for a similar period.

THE Czarevitch left Foochow last Sunday afternoon (12th inst.) for the Side Saddle. The Russian men-of-war *Koreyets* and *Mandjour* and the German gunboat *Iltis* were to go down and meet him there on Tuesday, to accompany him to Hankow, but owing to the accident to the *Koreyets*, it is probable she would have to return to Shanghai for repairs.

LAST Saturday afternoon one of the water mains situated at the top of Glenealy steps, close to the Roman Catholic Cathedral, burst, and upwards of 100 tons of water were in consequence wasted before the flow was stopped. This is another instance of the slipshod way in which the mains were laid; but it doesn't matter much, seeing that there's plenty of water in the Tytam reservoir.

THE second performance of "The Contrabandista" by members of the Hongkong Choral Society attracted a fairly large audience to the Theatre Royal, City Hall, last night (20th inst.)—though the attendance of the Brahmins of the place was but small. In several respects improvements on Saturday night's representation were evident, and applause was loud and frequent. A third performance has been announced for Saturday evening.

THE stock of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank was somewhat depressed on the 20th inst. in consequence of news being received from Bombay that the Parsee firm of B. and A. Hormarjee were in difficulties, and the Bank was concerned to the extent of from three to three a half lakhs of dollars. We learn that the firm—who were formerly the Bombay agents of the Bank—have not suspended payment, but have called a meeting of their creditors, to be held on the 25th inst., when it will be decided whether to wind the business up or carry it on with a view to favourable liquidation. The rumour that the Agra and National Banks are heavily let in is probably incorrect, no unusual movement in their stock on the London market having occurred. As it is, the creditors will very likely get back 50 to 75 per cent. of their debts. Speculation in silver is said to be the cause of the collapse.

THE human vegetable who evolves the misleading articles in our morning contemporary classifies himself as a very half-baked potato in to-day's (16th inst.) issue. He gravely states that "Rumours are now in circulation as to card-parties held in the gaol, in which the European prisoners are allowed to participate, and as to the large amount of liquor that finds its way into the establishment." He forgot to mention the grand piano in every cell. These "rumours," we opine, have about as extensive a circulation as the *Daily Press*, amounting to an inaudible whisper between three men and a broker. We didn't intend to do it, but really, when such crass ignorance as to the goings-on in gaol prevails, it would be a charity to enlighten our friend over the way, especially as we may also interest the general public, and we therefore publish in this, as we shall in several ensuing issues, some details of gaol-life, by "*Experientia Docet*." Order your extra copies early.

THE case of the widow and five orphans of the late Bombardier Ashdown, Royal Artillery, has been taken up by the Non commissioned Officers and men of the Garrison, and a working Committee, with Mr. Meredith, the Garrison Sergeant Major, at the head, are arranging a very nice series of concerts under the patronage of His Excellency Major-General G. Digby Barker and Officers of the Garrison. The first will be given in the Garrison Theatre on Wednesday night (22nd inst.); the second will take place at the City Hall the following evening, and will followed by the production of Offenbach's "Blind Beggars," in which Mrs. Coxon, Mrs. Gillies, Mrs. Gordon, Miss Howard, Miss Lammert, Miss Pollard and several gentlemen have kindly consented to assist. On the two succeeding nights the Garrison Theatre will be used. We also note with pleasure that Saturday night's concert will be given in aid of the widow of the late Musketry Instructor Ryan, of the Police.

THE *N. C. Daily News* publishes the following very justifiable satire, under the title of

THE HAPPY CONSUL.

Who is the happy Consul? Who is he
That each aspiring sub. should wish to be?
He who, behind inhospitable door,
Plays, like Trafalgar founts, from ten to four;
Takes Rip Van Winkle as a type to follow,
And makes his Consulate a Sleepy Hollow.
Content to snooze his lazy hours away,
Sure of a pension and his monthly pay;
So he can keep on good terms with his Chief
Lets meaner int'rests come to utter grief;
Treats with smooth oil august Legation nerves,
With vinegar the public whom he serves.
Each case through native spectacles he sees,
Less Consul than Protector of Chinese;
Trembles at glances from Viceregal eyes,
And cowers before contemptuous Taotais;
But should mere nationals his aid implore,
Is quite the haughty personage once more.
Lives on the bounty of the public's purse,
Yet greets that public with a smothered curse;
With scowls that speak of anything but pleasure
Daunts ill-advised invaders of his leisure;
From outward signs of courtesy exempt,
Treats their just protests with a fine contempt;
Does little, strives to make that little less,
And leads a life of cultured uselessness.
Such is the happy Consul. Such is he
That each aspiring sub. should wish to be.

WE have to acknowledge receipt of a copy of "Observations made at the Hongkong Observatory in the year 1889" by Professor W. Doberck, Director of the Observatory. This is a most elaborate compilation of about 150 foolscap pages, containing full particulars and statistics of magnetic observations and weather reports for 1889, in addition to the Professor's annual departmental report, and other information. An immense amount of work must have been entailed in collating and classifying such a tremendous mass of figures and statistics, and the printing of the same must have cost a small fortune. We readily recognise Mr. Doberck's undoubted scientific attainments and the admirable work he has achieved in these purely scientific observations; we admit the hard labour he has gone through and the exemplary patience he has shown in getting out this book—but is the game worth the candle? So far as the citizens of Hongkong are concerned the magnetic observations and weather reports for 1889 are about as much practical use as a new history of the Deluge would be. It seems a great pity that the Professor's painstaking and doubtless profound researches into meteorological science are not better appreciated in Hongkong than is case, but it would be useless to deny that the general opinion is that Dr. Doberck was engaged and the Observatory specially constructed to give typhoon warnings, and not to compile magnetic observations and weather reports to be printed years afterwards. This latest Government publication may interest scientific societies in Europe and America, but its usefulness to Hongkong is not apparent.

THE Committee of the St. Andrew's Society presented the Band and Pipers of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders with a clock after the Ball the other day. We know our Caledonian friends won't like it, but on behalf of the musical Sassenachs we mention that it would have been much more to the purpose to have given the wielders of the drone and chanter a catty of corks, for muffling purposes.

THE Society writer in the *Sydney Bulletin* says that "the literary Governor Bowen's Australian poetic efforts were very privately inscribed to a raven-haired lady of Brisbane, who was subsequently the recipient of the rapturous odes of a certain gay and festive barrister." We wonder to whom Sir "Gush" dedicated his rapturous odes during his short but eventful sojourn in Hongkong! The erstwhile Hon. Tom Jackson for choice.

A MEETING of the Sanitary Board was held on the 20th inst. There were present:—Mr. S. Brown (Surveyor-General) President; Mr. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart (Registrar-General) vice-President; Dr. Ayres (Colonial Surgeon); Mr. Geo. Horspool (Acting Captain Superintendent of Police); Dr. Cantlie, and Messrs. Wong Shing, J. D. Humphreys, N. J. Ede, and Hugh MacCallum (Secretary).

BUSINESS DONE:—

The Board, disbelieving Mr. Humphreys' assurances to the effect that the Mount Austin Hotel was erected more for the benefit of the general public than the shareholders, decided that the drainage of that establishment should be completed in the usual way, pending the receipt of a report from the Sanitary Surveyor. A letter from Dr. Cantlie was read in which the writer stated that he had established a bacteriological laboratory, which he put at the service of the general public pending action by the Government in the matter of opening such an institution here under official auspices.

SUPREME COURT.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

(Before Mr. E. J. Ackroyd, Acting Puisne Judge.)

April 17th.

A FINE POINT SETTLED.

The Hop Kee Hong sought to recover $294.47, the balance of goods consigned to the Sang Ching Wo shop, for sale, which the latter retained as interest due on three promissory notes of $1,000 each. The defendants had sued the plaintiffs previously for $3,000 due on three promissory notes, and obtained judgment in their favour, but claimed that interest had not been included in that suit. A question therefore arose as to whether, not having included the interest when suing for the principal sums, they could subsequently claim the interest, or whether the defendants had expressly or impliedly abandoned their claim to such interest, or whether they were debarred by the roles of procedure of the Summary Court from recovering the interest.

The case was the subject of lengthy arguments in court on the 13th interest, the plaintiffs being represented by Mr. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master's office), and the defendants by Mr. Hastings (of Messrs. Wotton and Deacon's office).

To-day his lordship, in delivering judgment, held that the claims for principal due, $3,000, and interest, $294.47, were distinct and not included in the same cause of action, and that, consequently, the defendants were not precluded from retaining the amount of interest due from the money in hand obtained by the sale, on account of the plaintiff's goods. The plaintiff's action would, therefore, be dismissed with costs.

Mr. Gedge asked that the order for costs might be limited to the assets in hand of the plaintiffs, as receivers only.

Mr. Hastings objected, on the grounds that the plaintiffs should not have commenced the action without having sufficient funds to cover costs, and having done so they were personally liable.

His lordship reserved judgment on the new point.

IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

April 18th.

The April Sessions opened this morning, with two cases only on the calendar. The Attorney-General (Mr. W. M Goodman), instructed by Mr. Stokes (Acting Crown Solicitor) prosecuted.

The jurors were:—Messrs. Otto Gschwind, F. F. dos Santos, F. de Sales Botelho, F. Korn, A. G. Stephen, S. do Rozario, and A. A. H. Botelho.

CUTTING AND WOUNDING.

Nan Aki was found guilty of inflicting numerous wounds on a fellow-lodger during a quarrel on the 29th January. Sentence was deferred.

THE D'AGUILAR STREET ROBBERY.

Fan-ki, at the time of his arrest employed as a *Jukong* in the Water Police Force, was indicted on three charges: firstly, with robbing the person of one Leung Ashing, living at No. 50, D'Aguilar Street, on the 8th of February last, secondly, with stealing from the said house jewellery to the value of $600 and a Hongkong and Shanghai Bank deposit-note for $500; thirdly, with receiving a diamond ring well knowing it to have been stolen.

After hearing the evidence the jury unanimously found the prisoner guilty on the first and second counts.

Sentence was deferred until Monday.

April 20th.

CUTTING AND WOUNDING.

Nam Aki, found guilty of wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm to a fellow-lodger during a quarrel, was sentenced to five years' penal servitude.

THE D'AGUILAR STREET ROBBERY.

Fan Aki, a *Jukong* in the Water Police Force at the time of his arrest, having been found guilty of robbery from the person and larceny from a dwelling in D'Aguilar Street, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment with hard labour on each count, the terms to be concurrent—and to receive three whippings of 25 strokes each within six months from this date.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

Leung Ah Yon, shipchandler of Praya Central, was further examined this morning.

In opening the proceedings the Acting Registrar (Mr. Sangster) stated that Lau Chi Hing, who had been asked at the last meeting to assist in collecting the assets of the bankrupt, declined to do so, and it would therefore devolve upon the Official Assignee to do his best to get the money in.

Leung Ah Yon produced a letter dated the 3rd proximo purporting to have come from the accountant of his Penang firm, in which the writer announced the failure of the business in Penang, and went on to say that he would endeavour to collect the outstanding local and coast-port accounts, and with funds thus accumulated discharge the liabilities of the firm in that colony.

The Acting Registrar ultimately adjourned the matter for two months.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

(Before Sir James Russell, Chief Justice.)

April 21st.

In re THE MARINA, LIMITED.

This was an application made by the Marina Hotel Company, Limited, for the voluntary winding up of its affairs in accordance with a special resolution passed at a recent meeting of the shareholders.

Mr. J. A. Leach, barrister-at-law, (instructed by Mr. Rodyk), appeared for the Hongkong Trading Company, Limited; Mr. E. Robinson, instructed by Mr. D. E. Caldwell (of Messrs. Caldwell and Wilkinson) appeared for the Marina Company; and Mr. J. G. Phillippo, instructed by Mr. Mosson, represented Tam Achoi and others.

Mr. Leach said that a special resolution regarding the appointment of three liquidators, namely Mr. R. Fraser-Smith, Mr. A. G. Gordon, and Mr. A. B. Rodyk—was passed at a meeting of shareholders in the Company on the 31st ulto., and it was then decided to wind up the Company voluntarily. He now appeared to ask that an order be issued directing such winding up to be conducted under the supervision of the Court.

His lordship—There is nothing before me yet to show who represents the Company. There should have been a separate application for this winding up under the supervision of the Court?

Mr. Robinson—I represent the Company, your lordship. We are quite in accord with Mr. Leach as to the voluntary winding up.

His lordship asked if the resolution *in re* the winding up had been duly advertised.

M. Leach assured his lordship that it had, and handed in local newspapers as evidence thereof. He then went on to say that the appointment of three liquidators was rather an extraordinary proceeding, and he would be glad if his lordship could see his way to granting an order in the manner he desired.

His lordship—What are the liabilities of this company?

Mr. Leach said there was an affidavit by Mr. St. John Hancock setting forth the total liabilities at about $16,000. The assets, however, were of such nature that were the ship sold the sale would probably realise more than enough to cover the liabilities.

His lordship—The Court has to see to it that the creditors are not saddled with a lot of unnecessary expenses.

Mr. Phillippo asked that, however the order might be drafted—and he had no desire to oppose the voluntary winding up of the concern—a clause should be inserted setting forth that his clients had a preference above all others, by reason of their being practically in possession of the ship since the 11th December last. It was true the Hongkong Trading Company had taken steps to prevent the sale of the ship, but that did not, he submitted, in any way nullify his client's right to preference.

Mr. Leach did not see why Mr. Phillippo's clients should be placed in a more favourable position than the others.

Mr. Robinson concurred.

His lordship thought the best way would be for the order to be issued, and for Mr. Phillippo to reserve his arguments respecting preference until the hearing of the case in connection with the summons, issued lately, came on. He therefore directed counsel to draw up the order in Court so that the matter might be settled before any further adjournment took place. He ordered that this should explicitly set forth that it was issued without prejudice to the shareholders' nominees.

Mr. Robinson objected to the issue of the order on the grounds that it would practically set aside the shareholders' special resolution.

Mr. Leach said the nomination of the three liquidators could be reconsidered in chambers.

His lordship—They may act as volunteers.

Mr. Leach—I should imagine it very unlikely—quite the other way.

After some further discussion his lordship pointed out that the issue of the order would prevent Mr. Phillippo from relinquishing the security he held in favour of certain creditors.

Mr. Leach—I'll oppose his supposed rights to the last.

Finally the order was drafted, with a clause inserted to the effect that the instrument was made out without prejudice to the rights of the execution creditor in possession, and his right to recover on the judgment with costs, and all other proper expenses.

The matter was then adjourned *sine die*.

PIRACY IN BRITISH WATERS.

The whole of the detective force, together with two Inspectors and several European constables, had a field day yesterday (19th inst.) in hunting down a well-known pirate, who had been plying his avocation a few days ago. The master and one of the crew of a junk yesterday morning reported at the Central Police Station that their boat had been looted by a band of pirates near Chai Wan, in British Waters, and a lot of pigs stolen. From inquiries Inspector Quincey decided to visit Tok A Wan, a village in British Kowloon and the whole band of Police began to pay a house to house visit, whilst others remained on watch at certain distances. In the course of the search Quincey saw a man bounding over the fields from the village, and being within range fired a shot from his fowling piece, more to scare the runaway than to hurt him. The shot, however, took no effect, either in winging the man or retarding his steps, and Quincey, followed by others who had heard the report, gave chase over paddy fields and gardens for fully a mile, when the fugitive was overtaken by P. C. Niven and secured. The accused has been recognised by the master of the pirated junk, and is well-known to the police in connection with other dangerous cases, chief of which was when he was arrested by Inspector Hanson at Shaukiwan in '89, together with others, on a junk that was loaded with arms and ammunition for piratical purposes. For that affair he was sentenced at the Supreme Court to a short term of imprisonment. He was brought up at the Police Court on the morning of the 20th, before Mr. A. G. Wise, and charged with having, with others not in custody, piratically attacked a junk, the property of Wong A I, in the waters of the Colony, and stolen 13 pigs, 23 baskets of salt fish, 158 taels in money, a jade stone bangle, seven hemp bags and other articles, in all of the value of $408, on Thursday last.—Inspector Stanton prosecuted.

Mr. Wise, before proceeding with the case, said he thought the prisoner could scarcely be charged with piracy, because the act did not take place on the high seas, but within the waters of the Colony, and he thought the prisoner should be charged with robbery instead.

Inspector Stanton said a former Chief Justice had convicted upon a charge like the present.

Mr. Wise decided to proceed with the case and leave the question to the Supreme Court.

The following evidence was then taken:—

Wong A I, master of the Tung Chung passage boat trading between Hongkong and Kat-o, said his boat was of 37 piculs capacity, and besides himself had a crew of four persons. He left Kat-o about 8 p.m. on the 12th inst. for Hongkong, with a cargo of 13 pigs, 23 baskets of salt-fish, 158 taels of money, ten hemp bags and other things. About 8 p.m. on the 16th inst. when off Chai Wan, near Cape Collison, he saw two boats come alongside his boat. There were six men in each boat, all armed with swords and revolvers. They boarded his boat and put himself, the crew, and a passenger into the hold, which they closed up. They were all kept there for two nights and a day. He got out of the hold about 7 p.m. on Saturday, the pirates having taken their departure a few hours before he got out. He then found the cargo had been all taken away. The cargo belonged chiefly to Mok Fuk, the passenger, but the salt fish was the property of others. The money was witness's property. He recognised the prisoner, as being one of the band who boarded his boat, and who acted as leader. He was armed with a sword and revolver, and others were armed with muskets. The prisoner struck him with the sword upon the shoulder, but did not hurt him; nobody was hurt. At the time of the pirates attacking his boat they were about 100 *ch'eungs* from Hongkong, and when he got out of the hold his boat was two or three *ch'eungs* from the shore. On arrival at Hongkong yesterday morning he reported the matter to the Police. He next saw the prisoner at Tok A Wan, when the Police were in search of him. He then ran away, but the Police arrested him. He identified the property in Court as part of the stolen cargo.

After hearing further evidence Mr. Wise granted a remand for a week.

FORMOSA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The air is again thick with rumours that the Boss of this Island will very shortly be relieved, the Board of Civil Service having unanimously recommended his request for Imperial sanction. How much truth there is in this, no one will commit himself even to a guess, for, no only the opinions of those who have a deeper insight into the local politics contradict it, but in the current of events since such rumours germinated, nothing has turned up to indicate the likelihood of the Board's assuming a friendly attitude so soon. It is, however, a solid fact that H.E. Liu has fallen into a state so morbid and despondent that no extension of leave to be spent at his post will tend to restore the usual liveliness and energy with which he formerly discharged his duties, and it is also generally believed that he has resolved to annoy the Central Government till he obtains his end. But to say that he can wash his hands of this Island, while at the Imperial Court his enemies' feathers have not yet smoothed down, is simply preposterous; however, let those interested in Liu Ming-chu'an's policy wait for the result.

Since the Imperial edict, granting the Governor sick leave, was received the duties of ruler have devolved on the Provincial Financial Commissioner and Chief Justice Shen Ta-jên, and those of Director of the Provincial examinations on the Inteadant of the Circuit of Taiwan. Now as the examinations over which it is the Prefect of Taipeh's duty to preside, have begun some days ago, the member of the Imperial Academy, for so the Acting Director is, will shortly favour Northern Formosa with his presence.

Not long ago, the U. S. Consul at Amoy paid Tamsui a flying visit and arranged for an interview with the Governor, but a few hours before the ceremony was to be performed, H. E.'s disease all of a sudden relapsed, and the protector of American interests in the Far East found no alternative but to go away loaded with apology and sympathy. This flurried sort of coming and going of his was attributed to some commercial squabble in the South of this Island.

NANKING.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The flagship *Leipsig* of the German squadron, accompanied by the *Sophie* and *Alexandrine*, arrived here last Sunday afternoon (April 12th). A number of Chinese men-of-war were anchored near the landing and received the visitors with an appropriate salute. On Monday the Admiral and his staff dined with the Acting Viceroy at the Hing-tai Yamên, his (present) residence. The Viceregal palace is undergoing repairs in preparation for the coming of the newly appointed Governor-General. The yamên mentioned, however, is said by those present to have been elegantly furnished and the dinner all that could have been desired. The Viceroy was to have returned the visit on Wednesday, when he was expected to dine with the Admiral and inspect the ship. Most elaborate preparations were made, the troops were out in force and a line of gay banners stretched for some distance along the river bank. On ship board, too, everything was in readiness, but when His Excellency arrived there was such a strong gale blowing that it was impossible for him to go aboard, and after two hours' waiting he sent his regrets and the *Leipsig* hastened to get under way, orders having been received to proceed at once to Yokohama. When the squadron first arrived the people became very much excited, moved by mingled feelings of curiosity and fear. Many strange rumours were afloat; one to the effect that the boats had come to capture Nanking, which the foreigners greatly coveted for its beauty; another that the Czarevitch had come; and a young officer, who accompanied the Admiral on Monday through the city, was pointed out as the Russian Prince.—*Mercury.*

TIENTSIN.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Tientsin, April 8th.

I hear from good authority that Mr. P. A. Demitrevski, Consul for Russia at Hankow, has applied to the Rev. J. B. Simon, S.J., of the Roman Catholic Mission at Nanking, to know if H.I.H. the Czarewitch could be accommodated at the mission premises, the same as the Grand Duke of Alexis, should he decide to stay at Nanking. Accommodation was granted with much pleasure.

From Peking I learn that the big Loan and the Railway question is reviving there again. It is rumoured that his Ex. Herr von Brandt is endeavouring to have the loan negotiated with the Deutche Asiatische Bank.

His Ex. Li Hung-chang has returned the visit of Mr. Emil Rehders, of the German Bank, and spent considerable time with him and Mr. Otto Miretsky.—*Mercury.*

April 13th.

Rather a serious collision has taken place at Tongshan between the foreign and Cantonese employés of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, and of the Railway Company, which very nearly resulted in loss of life. It appears that for some time past relations between the foreign employés and the Cantonese have been very strained, and that the latter have been most insolent in their bearing towards the foreigners, trying to pick a quarrel and thus having an opportunity to fight it out. Some four or five days ago one of the Railway Company's men had an altercation with one of the Cantonese who laid a complaint before the directors, charging the foreigner with assault. The day after one of the directors summoned the foreigner to interrogate him on the matter, and as the latter was leaving he was set upon by a crowd of over a hundred Cantonese who attacked him with sticks and stones, and had it not been for the action of a native fireman, who placed him on a railway engine and drove off with him, he would almost certainly have been beaten to death. As a consequence all the foreign employés of both companies, finding the directors powerless to maintain order and fearing a repetition of such acts of violence, have moved in a body to Tientsin to place themselves under the protection of the British Consul. The Viceroy to whom the matter was at once referred is greatly annoyed and has promised to take immediate steps to punish the offenders, and as soon as the foreigners see that something will really be done to afford them protection they will doubtless all return to their work.

Later.

The Tongshan trouble is likely to end satisfactorily. The foreigners employed in the Colliery and Railway waited in a body on the Directors at Tongshan and asked for protection against the Cantonese, which was granted in a perfunctory and quite useless fashion. They further demanded the arrest and punishment of the assailant of Mr. Burns, the shop foreman, who was so nearly killed by them on the 9th instant. The Directors said they were afraid to arrest the men owing to excitement and there being a Cantonese colony of 500 in and about Tongshan, but promised to do so within three days. At the expiry of that time the foreigners sent an ultimatum to the Directors and left the works in a body for Tientsin. This was a master-stroke which brought the Chinese to reason at once. Even the Viceroy, who is in the habit of yielding to mob violence on all occasions, was roused to action, and despatched peremptory orders for the arrest of the Cantonese ringleaders. Meantime the foreigners remain in Tientsin. If they are firm and united they have now a chance of getting all they require for their own safety and for the efficiency of their work. The Cantonese have been becoming more and more unbearable, and have so intimidated the natives that in the works below and above ground they obey the orders of the Cantonese, who constantly interfere with the foreign overmen and viewers on whom depends the safety of the whole concern. Things will never be satisfactory at Tongshan until the whole turbulent colony is rooted out.—*N. C. Daily News.*

Commercial.

THE WEEK'S SHARE BUSINESS.

Hongkong, April 18th.

Very little share business has been done during the past week and rates remain practically unaltered.

A demand set in for Banks early in the week and a considerable number of shares changed hands at 237 per cent. premium for the 25th instant, but after the arrangements for settlement-day had been completed the stock weakened and dropped to 236, at which rate shares are now freely offered. Business was also done *ex* New Issue at 200, and in New Issues at 198.

Hongkong Fires are weak, with sellers at 315. Since our last report a few lots of China Fires have been placed at 82½.

For cash China Sugars have changed hands at 200, but there is no demand for these shares for forward delivery. Luzons are reported to have been made the medium for some cash business at 91, but the scrip is decidedly out of favor at present.

Docks have been done up to 101 per cent. premium for cash, and also at 107 for September. A slight reaction has, however, set in, without any apparent cause, and there are now plenty shares offering at 99, and perhaps a point lower.

Notwithstanding the hard times on the Canton river, Steamboats continue to hold their own fairly well. Cash sales at 33½ have been booked, and there are further buyers at that figure. The Douglas Co.'s scrip is on offer at 48, but no business has been reported.

In Mining stocks very little has been done in the shape of actual transfers, but a slightly healthier feeling prevails. Some Imuris shares have been taken up at 12, and more could be placed at the same figure, or even at half-a-point higher. Offers to buy Raubs at 80 cents have not been responded to, holders preferring to "bide-a-wee" for the good times that are said to be coming. A few Selamas are on the market at $1. Punjoms have not been mentioned during the week, but if they were ever worth anything, which is doubtful, they ought to be cheap at $10, if only to preserve as Hongkong curios.

After a long rest Watson & Co.'s scrip has been made the subject of anxious inquiries, and some cash transactions at 21 have been recorded; but there are apparently only a limited supply of shares on the market and later offers of 21½ have not been accepted. If figures mean anything and the current reports as to the profits realised on last year's working are only half true, this is about the cheapest stock in the market at its present quotation.

Nothing else calls for special comment.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, ex New Issue, 198 per cent.—premium, sellers.
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, cum New Issue, —231 per cent., sellers.
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, New Issue.—$196 per cent. premium, sales and sellers.
Union Insurance Society of Canton—$95 per share, buyers.
China Traders' Insurance Company—$63 per share, buyers.
North-China Insurance—Tls. 275 per share, buyers.
Canton Insurance Company, Limited—$115 per share, sellers.
Yangtsze Insurance Association—Tls. 70 per share, nominal.
On Tai Insurance Company, Limited—Tls. 150 per share.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company—$315 per share, sellers.
China Fire Insurance Company—$82½ per share, sales.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company—$98 per cent. premium, sales and sellers.
Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.—$33½ per share, sales and buyers.
China and Manila Steam Ship Company—120 per share, sellers.
Hongkong Gas Company—$131 per share, sellers.
Hongkong Hotel Company—$120 per share, buyers.
Hongkong Hotel Co.'s Six per-cent. Debentures —$501.
Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Limited —30 per cent. discount, sellers.
Douglas Steamship Company—$48 per share, sellers.
China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—$200 per share, sales and sellers.
Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited—$91 per share, sales and sellers.
Hongkong Ice Company—$90 per share, buyers.
Hongkong and China Bakery Company, Limited —$75 per share.
Hongkong Dairy Farm Co., Limited—$7 per share, sellers.
A. S. Watson & Co., Limited—$21½ per share, buyers.
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 B—2½ per cent. premium, sellers.
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 C—5 per cent. premium, buyers.
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1886 E—14 per cent. premium.
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Limited—$122 per share, ex. div., sales and buyers.
The Hongkong Steam Laundry Co., Limited—$25 per share, nominal.
Punjom and Sunghie Dua Samantan Mining Co. —$3 per share, sellers.
The Raub Gold Mining Co., Limited—80 cents per share, buyers.
Imuris Mining Co., Limited—$12½ per share, buyers.
The Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited—$7 per share, sellers.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company—$79 per share, buyers.
Tonquin Coal Mining Co.—$430 per share, buyers.
The Hongkong High-Level Tramway Co., Limited—$65 per share, buyers.
The East Borneo Planting Co., Limited—$10 per share, sellers.
H. G. Brown & Co., Limited—$54 per share, sellers.
The Songei Koyah Planting Co., Limited—$13½ per share, buyers.
Cruickshank & Co., Limited—$35 per share, nominal.
The Steam Launch Co., Limited—nominal.
The Austin Arms Hotel and Building Company, Limited—$13 per share, sellers.
The China-Borneo Co., Limited—$6 per share, sellers.
The Hongkong Brick and Cement Co., Limited —$12 per share, sellers.
The Green Island Cement Co.—$17 per share, sellers.
The Hongkong Land Investment Co., Limited—$87 per share, sellers.
The Hongkong Electric Light Co., Limited—$6 per share, buyers.
Geo. Fenwick & Co., Limited—$15 per share, sellers.
The West Point Buildings Co., Limited—$30 per share, sellers.
The Peak Hotel and Trading Co., Limited—$8 per share, sellers.
The Labuk Planting Co., Limited—$25 per share, sellers.
The Lamag Planting Co., Limited—$7 per share, buyers.
The Jelebu Mining and Trading Co., Limited—$2 per share, buyers.
The Selama Tin Mining Co., Limited—$1 per share, sellers.
The Shameen Hotel Co., Limited—nominal.
The Kowloon Land Investment Co., Limited—$15 per share, buyers.
The Bank of China & Japan & the Straits Ld.—$18 per share, sellers.
The Bank of China & Japan & the Straits Ld.—Founders' shares, £180 per share, sellers.
The Hongkong Marina, Limited—nominal.
London and Pacific Petroleum Co., Limited—£15, sellers.
The National Bank of China, Ld.,—25 per cent. dis., sales and sellers.
The National Bank of China, Ld., Founders' shares—$400 per share, sales and sellers.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON—Bank, T. T. 3/1½
Bank Bills, on demand.....3/1⅝
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight ...3/2⅛
Credits at 4 months' sight 3/2⅛
Documentary Bills, at 4 months' sight 3/2⅜
ON PARIS—
Bank Bills, on demand 3.97
Credits, at 4 months' sight 4.06
On India, T. T. 222
On Demand.....222½
ON SHANGHAI—
Bank, T. T. 71⅜
Private, 30 days' sight 72⅛

Insurances.

£1,000 STG. Payable at Age 55, or at death if previous—may be secured by a payment at the rate of:—

£7	7	6	per quarter if commenced at age (n. b.)	20
£8	14	2		25
£10	11	2		30
£13	4	10		35
£17	15	8		40
£27	12	6		45

AFTER the Policy has been three years in force—the Policy-holder will be entitled to receive on application a Free Paid-up Policy for proportionate amount of the Sum Assured, as explained in Prospectus, should he wish to discontinue payment of premiums.

ADAMSON, BELL & Co.,
Agents, Hongkong
982—2] STANDARD LIFE OFFICE.

SOUTH BRITISH FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND.

THE Undersigned are prepared to accept FIRE and MARINE INSURANCES on favourable terms.

Current rates and a guaranteed Bonus equal to that paid by the local Offices.

GEORGE R. STEVENS & Co.,
Agents.
No. 2, Queen's Road, Hongkong.
Hongkong, 31st March, 1891. [514

THE TOKYO MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED, OF TOKYO.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL.....$1,200,000.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents are prepared to accept first class HULL RISKS at CURRENT RATES.

GEO. R. STEVENS & Co.
Hongkong, 1st April, 1891. [517

GENERAL LIFE AND FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY IN LONDON.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE and LIFE at Current Rates.

REUTER, BROCKELMANN & Co.,
Hongkong, 1st July, 1889. [66

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES.

RUSSELL & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 14th November, 1890. [1567

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